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THE TIMES

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FRIDAY MARCH 22 1996

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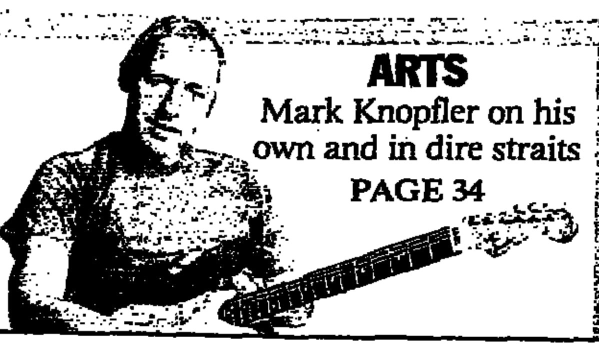

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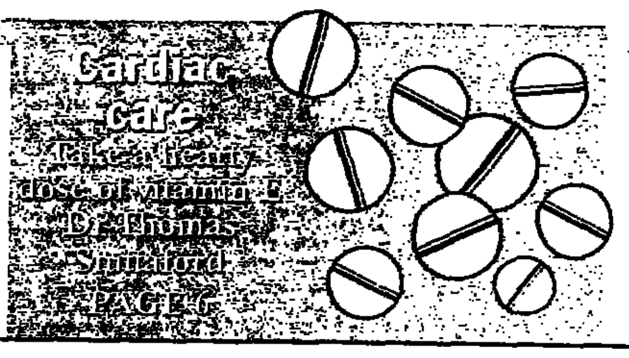

Get set for the tests
Our guide will help pupils and reassure parents
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Downing St anger as fear over mad cow disease grows and three EU partners end imports

French lead Euro-ban on British beef

By Ben Macintyre in Paris, Charles Bremner in Brussels
Roger Boyes in Bonn and Philip Webster in London

BRITAIN was in confrontation with its European partners last night after France, Belgium and The Netherlands halted imports of British beef and Germany called for a continent-wide ban.

At the same time, councils across Britain removed beef from the menus of thousands of schools and old people's homes in the light of new evidence linking "mad cow" disease and a human brain disorder. And the meat industry warned ministers that they could face a multimillion pound compensation bill.

The French action removed at a stroke Britain's most valuable market for beef — amounting to 80,000 tonnes a year worth £220 million — and dealt a devastating blow to the Government, butchers and farmers as they tried to reassure domestic consumers.

Downing Street declared the continental bans illegal, and Brussels deplored them, but some formal control on British exports seems unavoidable when the the European Commission's veterinary committee meets on Monday. One official said: "The new British statement makes it hard to carry on as before."

Germany, which has been campaigning for years to get the possible danger posed to humans by "mad cow" disease taken seriously, is certain to press for tough restrictions — and it could well sway the whole Union against Britain.

For two years, it has sought a comprehensive statement on British meat after coming under pressure from consumers, local politicians and farmers who have watched with alarm as German consumption of all meat has slumped in spite of posters at supermarkets, butcher shops and restaurants highlighting the source of all their meat.

Yesterday its health and agriculture ministries issued a statement saying: "On the basis of the new information, the aim must be to secure a general export ban from Britain for meat, meat products, offal, animal meal and raw materials for pharmaceuticals and cosmetics in the European Union." The ministries also said that they would be urging action against other countries where "mad cow" disease has been identified.

In Brussels, however, the Commission insisted that it would do nothing until after the veterinary committee had reviewed the latest evidence. British officials reported to the farm directorate yesterday and the EU's panel of independent scientific experts are to consider the issue at a regular meeting today. "We must not exaggerate the problem. It is only a problem in the UK and we should not overstate the extent of it," a spokesman for the farm commissioner said.

Britain's position was put by Kevin Taylor, the Government's assistant chief scientific veterinary officer, and other officials. Mr Taylor said that his duty was not to reassure but to inform the the EU of the Government's actions, which he felt were sufficient.

The final decision on any EU action will come from the Commission rather than the council of member states, and British officials were lobbying to avoid any drastic steps such as an outright ban that would carry far-reaching political implications. Beyond the scientific arguments, it would signal a lack of confidence in the Government and deepen the mutual suspicions that dog British relations with its continental partners.

Yesterday, Euro-sceptics were already railing against France and Sir Teddy Taylor called for a retaliatory ban on French beef and wine, saying: "We get far better wine from Australia and New Zealand."

Douglas Hogg denounced the French move as unreasonable, unnecessary and "a wholly disproportionate response" as Britain made urgent representations to Brussels to have the embargo lifted. Mr Hogg said it raised "very strong questions of illegality"

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SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

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Business carries on as usual at London's Smithfield meat market yesterday as traders wait for repercussions of the French beef ban

Meat course scotched by Parisians

From Ben Macintyre
in Paris

THE kilted bagpiper did his best, but a promotional lunch in Paris yesterday to encourage French consumption of Scottish products including "juicy Scotch beef" was a tense and nervous affair, coinciding with the total French ban on British beef.

"It's a disaster," declared Kate Frears, spokesman for "Food From Britain", which organised the event, part of nationwide promotion entitled "Scotland the Brand" and incorporating, among other groups, the Scotch Beef Club of France. "The timing could hardly be worse," she added.

All over France members of the Scotch Beef Club, an association of more than 50 top restaurants that feature Scottish beef, will no doubt begin peeling the tartan stickers from their doors as *la maladie de la vache folle* grips the country.

Despite assurances that the risk was "minuscule", some of the guests at yesterday's lunch, held at Bertie's, the celebrated British restaurant in the swanky 16th *arrondissement*, were not so sure. The Tartare of Smoked Salmon was wolfed down, the Tobermory malt was quaffed without a second thought, the Creel of Crinan Scallops vanished in moments, but the crunch came with the Angus Beef Fillet.

"Is this a good idea?" asked Rénaud Siegmann of Orlowski publishers, eyeing his helping of meat as if it might at any moment leap off the plate and attack him in a frenzy of bovine insanity.

His neighbour on the "Tiree table" was taking no chances, demanding that her succulent fillet be taken back to the kitchen and returned *bien, bien cuit*, a crime against French gastronomy in any other circumstances. When the frazzled remnant reappeared she toyed with it, wearing a distracted air.

At the "Mull table" Damian Cronin, the former Scottish rugby international was clearly aware that national pride was at steak and whacked into his Aberdeen Angus with theatrical relish.

With true Culloden spirit, however, the organisers of the event were not going to let the beef ban get them down. "Scottish food is not just about beef, you know," Alice Wood of "Scotland the Brand" observed brightly. "In New York they loved the lemon curd."

"Old Macdonald wished he didn't have a farm E-I-E-I-O"

Guns amnesty to reassure public

By Richard Ford
and Gillan Bowditch

A NATIONWIDE firearms amnesty is to be held within three months, after the massacre of schoolchildren and a teacher in Dunblane, the Prime Minister announced yesterday.

The Government surprised police by disclosing the amnesty as the terms of reference were announced for the official inquiry into the killings.

Michael Howard also disclosed that opposition politicans will be invited to discuss their concerns, adding that the results of a Home Office review of firearms legislation would be given to Lord Cullen's inquiry.

John Major's announcement follows growing concern over firearms controls since the attack last week. An amnesty in 1988 after Michael Ryan's massacre in Hungerford led to 48,000 weapons being handed in.

The Government's swift decision will be seen as a reassurance that it is doing something to meet public concern especially as the inquiry will not report until September. Both the Firearms Consultative Council, the Government watchdog, and chief constables, have been pressing for an amnesty.

Mr Major told the Commons at Question Time: "It has been agreed that an amnesty will take place. The details are being worked out and we will advise the House as soon as possible." He said that Mr Howard, the Home Secretary, and Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, had been in discussion with the police before the tragedy.

Jim Sharples, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, said: "Firearms amnesties do add value to the question of public safety and allow members of the public the opportunity to surrender weapons to the police."

Police sources suggested that the amnesty would take about three months to organise. They want all relinquished weapons to be given forensic tests for possible crime links. The question of compensation will also have to be addressed.

Lord Cullen's judicial inquiry will have a wide-ranging remit with witnesses required to give evidence under oath. Those failing to comply could be charged with contempt.

Mr Forsyth said the inquiry into the deaths of 16 children, Gwenne Mayor, and the gunman, Thomas Hamilton, at Dunblane Primary School would be similar to that held after the 1966 Aberfan disaster in which 116 children died.

The inquiry, which will start in June, will be held under the auspices of the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921. Lord Cullen carried out the inquiry into the Piper Alpha oil platform disaster.

Ulster elections set for May 30

Irish politicians backed away from a threatened boycott of elections in Northern Ireland. The poll will take place on May 30, leading to all—party talks on June 10.

John Major announced a unique and complicated system of elections to a 110-member peace forum. Gerry Adams said that the plans were anathema to nationalists ....Pages 2, 19

Water war

A bid war for South West Water was triggered by Severn Trent moving to buy the company which has had a proposal from Wessex Water on its way to the monopolies commission ....Page 23

Drinkers take heart from health survey

By Jeremy Laurance and Joe Joseph

WHISKY, beer and gin are good for you and can guard against heart disease, according to American experts.

The scientists at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts, have destroyed the myth that only red wine is beneficial.

In an article in tomorrow's *British Medical Journal*, based on a review of 25 studies on the effect of drinking on heart disease, they conclude that moderate amounts of any alcohol reduce the risk. Current medical advice is that people who take two or three alcoholic drinks a day cut the danger of a heart attack by one sixth. But some studies show that up to seven units a day are protective — equivalent to three and a half pints of beer or a bottle of wine.

Experiments have shown that any alcohol reduces blood's tendency to clot and increases the level of HDL cholesterol, which fights heart disease.

☐ **Starting young:** Teenagers drink more alcohol than five years ago and more than half of secondary school pupils have tried it, according to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

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Rival packs scoff over dog's breakfast

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Paddy Ashdown got it right. The Prime Minister's rueful smile, as he protested that the Liberal Democrat Leader had *not* got it right, said it all. This plan for Northern Ireland elections was — in Mr Ashdown's words — "a dog's breakfast". But it was "probably the only dog's breakfast on offer. It may well be the best dog's breakfast that can be arrived at." From the Ulster kennels to left and right of the chair the yaps and growls confirmed our canine analysis.

None of these pooches liked the breakfast much; none of them liked each other at all; and every one mistrusted their London kennel masters. How to resolve these competing hostilities? Northern Ireland's MPs decided to growl at the breakfast but without quite kicking over the dog-bowl; all the while watching rival hounds from the corner of the eye lest any should try to corner the breakfast for themselves.

John Major spoke with force and clarity, but the plans he had to recommend were hard for MPs to grasp. Tony Blair responded positively and with equal dispatch. Paddy Ashdown was brief and plain. The three party leaders were in the mood to be reasonable and make the best of a difficult situation.

But that was the easy part. After all, none of these men was being asked to eat the breakfast. David Trimble, the Leader of the Ulster Unionists, was. And to him this was, frankly, more like cat-food than Pedigree Chum, concocted by "an unholy alliance" between the Paisleyite and the nationalist dog-packs, and Dublin. He couldn't fathom why his own party's breakfast request had been rejected. But still he gave the impression that he and his fellow-hounds *might* eat the dish if they absolutely had to. For the nationalist-inclined Social Democratic and Labour Party, Seamus Mallon (Newry & Armagh) bared his teeth and looked almost ready to bite the prime-ministerial hand offering to feed him, but not quite. He accused Major of devising this food to favour the Unionist hounds. Mallon circled the dog's breakfast, barking angrily, refused even to sniff at its contents — and sat down, still snarling. But he had not entirely turned his back on the mess.

For Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, Peter Robinson (Belfast E) declared the breakfast to be "the most broadly unacceptable" dog-food it was possible for Major to devise. Pausing to yap at the other "Official" Unionist dogs, across the floor ("whingeing and panicking," he said) he returned to scoff and sneer at what had been placed before him, blaming its contents on them. He too, however, deplored the meal without rejecting it.

Each pack was blaming the ingredients of the breakfast on a conspiracy between the London kennelmaster and the other two dog packs. Speaking as kennelmaster, John Major showed the strain. At Seamus Mallon's intervention he nearly snapped. To each he repeated that whoever proved the stumbling block to this process would not be forgiven by the people of Northern Ireland themselves.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, impassive on the bench beside him. Major pleaded with earnest, exasperated patience. He looked like a man driven often to the edge, but never over it. The Ulster MPs sounded like men almost ready to give him that final push … but in the event not quite.

"Give them independence!" grunted a despairing Sir Patrick Cormack (C, Staffs S). He grunted for many.

Families claim damages as Sheriff contradicts RAF's finding of negligence

Inquiry clears RAF pilots in Chinook helicopter crash

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, MICHAEL EVANS AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE two pilots of the RAF Chinook helicopter that crashed into the Mull of Kintyre killing 25 anti-terrorist specialists cannot be blamed for the tragedy, a second inquiry has ruled.

Sheriff Sir Stephen Young, who carried out a four-week fatal accident inquiry in Paisley, has concluded that he can find no cause for the accident in 1994 and no evidence that it was caused by pilot error. The report, which is due to be published today, contradicts the official RAF board of inquiry which found the pilots grossly negligent.

Yesterday the families of Flight Lieutenant Jonathan Tapper, 28, and his co-pilot Flight Lieutenant Richard Cook, 30, called on the RAF to retract their finding. Lawyers for the families also said they would immediately lodge claims for compensation and damages.

Flight Lieutenants Tapper (left) and Cook: their families will now make claims for compensation

Compensation is currently being negotiated by the families of the civilian victims, who included senior members of MI5 and the Royal Ulster Constabulary Special Branch. The widows of the two pilots feared they would receive no compensation.

Peter Watson, solicitor for the Cook family, said: "They have been completely vindicated. I will be lodging a claim for damages immediately with the RAF on behalf of Flight Lieutenant Cook's widow Sara and two-year-old daughter Eleanor."

However, the Ministry of Defence said the widows had always been entitled to make a claim but had not done so. RAF sources also continued to insist that, despite Sir Stephen's report, there remained no other possible conclusion than the one reached by Air Vice-Marshal John Day, Air Officer Commanding No 1 Group. His judgment that the pilots were to blame was supported by Air Chief Marshal Sir Bill Wratten, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief Strike Command.

ALAN LEWIS

Widows of those killed in the accident at a press conference in Belfast yesterday

The sources said that the board of inquiry led by a wing commander and two squadron leaders found nothing mechanically wrong with the Chinook. One source said: "The fact that the Chinook had to climb suddenly to try to fly over the mountain indicated that the pilots were taken by surprise. They had been flying below the safe altitude for those sort of weather conditions."

The RAF's position was rejected by John Cook, father of Richard Cook and a former RAF pilot. He said: "The inquiry by Sir Stephen Young has cleared my son's name, which is what we have been fighting for."

The two pilots were flying a new Mark II Chinook when it crashed into a fog-covered mountain on the Mull 20 minutes after take-off. The helicopter was bound for a security conference at Fort George near Inverness.

Sir Stephen said it had not been established to his satisfaction or on the balance of probability that the cause was "the decision of the crew to overfly the Mull of Kintyre at cruising speed and their selection for that purpose of the incorrect rate of climb". Mr Cook said other Chinook pilots had told him they were worried about its safety.

The inquiry was told that Flight Lieutenant Tapper had voiced a number of concerns about the helicopter which had been brought into service in Northern Ireland only two days before the crash.

☐ Verdicts of accidental death were returned at an inquest into the death of two Britons and three Algerian aircrew killed when a plane exporting veal calves to the Continent crashed, narrowly missing a housing estate. The two-day hearing at Coventry was told that stock handlers Adrian Sharp, 31, of Kirkthorpe, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and Andrew Yates, 23, of Rugby, Warwickshire, were killed instantly when the Air Algeria Boeing 737 crashed near Coventry airport in December 1994.

Poll plan for Ulster receives grudging support

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND NICHOLAS WATT

JOHN MAJOR last night cleared a crucial hurdle in the search for peace in Northern Ireland when politicians backed away from a threatened boycott of elections in the Province. They will take place on May 30, with all-party talks scheduled for June 10.

The Prime Minister unveiled a highly complicated system to elect the 110 members of the peace forum. It was forced on him after the political parties failed to agree to any established form of poll.

There will be five seats for each of Northern Ireland's 18 parliamentary constituencies. The electors will vote for a party. Each party will publish a list of five candidates for each constituency and rank their candidates so that the first one is their favourite to succeed. A further 20 seats will be selected through complicated arithmetic after the vote. All the votes in the constituencies will be added together and the ten most successful parties across Northern Ireland will win two elected representatives each from party lists published in advance. The parties elected to the 110-member forum will then select smaller negotiating teams.

Nationalist politicians complained that Mr Major's compromise proposals were Unionist-inspired, but there were no immediate threats to pull out of the elections.

The Prime Minister emphasised that Sinn Fein would not take part in the all-party talks unless the IRA ceasefire was restored and the issue of decommissioning weapons was addressed. The party will, however, be allowed to take part in the elections even if the ceasefire is not revived.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, said the election plans were "anathema to nationalists".

Mr Major described the election package as a "viable and reasonable way forward" that demanded compromise from everybody. He acknowledged there was a risk of politicians refusing to take part, but said that "no one who stands unreasonably in the way of a settlement will be readily forgiven".

Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader, described the plans as "a dog's breakfast", but "it may well be the best dog's breakfast".

A senior source in Dublin said: "It gives something to everybody, but nothing to everybody."

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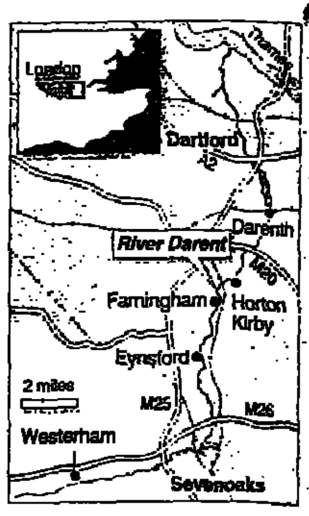
NEWS IN BRIEF



Kent river saved from drought

The River Darent in Kent is being made drought-proof. The river has run dry during most summers since 1976, but yesterday Lord Crickhowell, chairman of the National Rivers Authority, switched on the first of six artificial springs that will feed the chalk river at times of low flow. Several such schemes are planned. The amount of water taken by Thames Water from the catchment area is being reduced.

Oxfam cuts £5.6m

Oxfam says the National Lottery is partly to blame for cuts amounting to £5.6 million that are likely to mean the loss of 50 jobs and the closure of overseas projects. People have also been less willing to donate to Oxfam's charity shops.

Life for hitman

A hitman who took up a contract on a millionaire car dealer was jailed for life at the Old Bailey. Kevin Lane, 26, of Potton, Bedfordshire, was convicted of murdering Robert Magill, 44, as he walked his dog near his home in Hertfordshire.

£2m mugging

Two muggers escaped with jewels worth almost £2 million after spraying CS gas into the face of a 29-year-old German jewellery salesman in Hatton Garden, central London, on Wednesday night, police said yesterday.

Forward jailed

A rugby forward was jailed for eight months for attacks on two players in different matches. Ian Thickpenny, 31, playing for Barry, broke the jaw of one player and the eye socket of another, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

In harmony

The Hallé Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic are to perform together for the first time next month. The concert, at the Royal Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool, marks Granada Television's fortieth anniversary.

Dunblane children go back to school

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE children of Dunblane Primary School will return to their classes today for the first time since 16 pupils and their teacher were shot dead ten days ago.

Social workers and counsellors will be on hand to help when the school opens between 9am and noon and parents will be invited to stay for a short time.

Gerry McDermott, of the school board, said teachers would try to make the day as normal as possible but he acknowledged that this would be difficult. He said it was still to be decided if the headmaster Ron Taylor, one of the first on the scene after the massacre, would address the whole school of 700 pupils. One problem is that the gym where the shootings took place was also used as the assembly hall.

Parents have been sent letters by the local authority outlining arrangements and telling them "it will be a special and different day". A spokeswoman for Central Regional Council's education department said: "I don't think it will be like a normal day. It is more to get them reacquainted with the school and the first stage of getting back to normality."

The last funerals took place yesterday. Gwenne Mayor, the teacher who died, was buried after a service at the 13th-century cathedral. Later the funeral of Brett McKinnon, six, was held at the cathedral. The service for Ross Irvine, five, took place in private in Ayr.

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Personal stereo plea rejected

Inventor who lost leaves taxpayer with £500,000 bill

By Tim Jones and Frances Gibb

A WEALTHY German inventor's attempt to prove that he invented the personal stereo will cost the British taxpayer £500,000 after his claim, funded by legal aid, was thrown out by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Andreas Pavel, who has spent his £1 million inheritance in seven years of court battles with Sony in the hope of becoming a multimillionaire, was criticised by the judges for the £2.7 million costs he had run up in court hearings. The proceedings had resulted in "inefficiency, delay and excessive costs", the judges said, as they ordered Herr Pavel to pay the Court of Appeal bill, which alone came to £500,000.

However, payment will fall to the Legal Aid Board which funded Herr Pavel's appeal, despite his shareholdings estimated by Sony's lawyers at "hundreds of thousands of pounds" and strong objections lodged by Sony.

Herr Pavel, 51, who lives in Milan, first thought of his "stereophonic system for personal wear" while on a walking holiday in the 1970s and made a prototype for which he took out patents in Germany, Britain and other countries.

Herr Pavel had claimed that his personal stereo, which incorporated a pair of headphones, a belt, cassette player, amplifier and storage pouch, was inventive and not obvious. However, the judges ruled that his patent was not an inventive concept and refused him leave to appeal in the House of Lords.

Pavel, who says he will continue his battle

Lord Justice Aldous said the evidence had not established the success of the Walkman was due to the inventive concept as claimed. "The Walkman would have been just as successful without any belt, clip or loop for belt attachment. Its success appears to have been due to its sophisticated system for producing high-quality sound reproduction."

Last night Herr Pavel said: "I am disappointed and frustrated with the judgment. I think the judges were superficial and I don't think they fully understood the concept."

Herr Pavel lodged his original unsuccessful action in the Patents County Court: it cost Sony £1.4 million, Toshiba £300,000 and Herr Pavel £500,000. If he had won his case, he could have expected £100 million in royalties from worldwide sales. Sony is estimated to have earned £3 billion from its Walkman.

In spite of debts now exceeding his assets, Herr Pavel intends to continue his global legal battle. Asked about the fact he was being funded by the British taxpayer he said: "It was the British legal system that ruined me and I am only using the rules. I would have paid for the appeal but I lost all my money in the first case."

The case is the latest in which the Legal Aid Board has come under fire. Two weeks ago it was strongly criticised over granting legal aid to help a robber to investigate a claim against the police for shooting him during his arrest.

It will also reopen the debate about granting legal aid to foreign nationals. The Lord Chancellor recently consulted on whether foreign nationals should be denied legal aid. Sir Thomas Legg, permanent secretary of the Lord Chancellor's Department, told MPs this week that the overwhelming view from those consulted was that foreign nationals were entitled to legal aid on the same footing as British nationals, who are equally entitled to legal aid that exists in other countries.

Donald Jerrard, a solicitor for Sony, said yesterday: "We will now be pursuing the Legal Aid Board for our costs, although the likelihood is that we shan't be able to get back much more than one third of the total."

He added: "We do not believe he should have been granted legal aid. Herr Pavel had to reveal the extent of his assets after the first hearing, and Sony believes those assets were far in excess of the limit for legal aid. Herr Pavel had argued that his assets were not disposable because the shares were in family companies and so on."

CATERS

Maggie Atkinson, who was left handcuffed to the banisters overnight after burglars wearing balaclavas stole jewellery and cash

Thieves handcuff Ron Atkinson's wife

By Richard Duce

THE wife of Ron Atkinson, the Premier League football manager, was handcuffed to the banisters at their home by masked robbers and left for more than 12 hours.

Maggie Atkinson, 47, discovered the three intruders inside the mock-Tudor house in Barnt Green, Hereford and Worcester, where the couple have lived for six months. She was pushed to the floor, her jewellery was taken and then she was marched to the bedroom and forced to hand over cash and other items.

She was handcuffed to the banisters on the landing of the £250,000 house where she was eventually found at 10.30 yesterday morning by Mr Atkinson's driver.

Mr Atkinson, the flamboyant manager of Coventry City and former manager of West Bromwich Albion, Manchester United, Sheffield Wednesday and Aston Villa, was not at home when the men broke into the house at about 9.30pm on Wednesday.

The raiders struck while he was appearing on television in London to commentate on a match between Juventus and Real Madrid in the European Champions' League. He is understood to have stayed in London rather than make the journey back to the Midlands late at night.

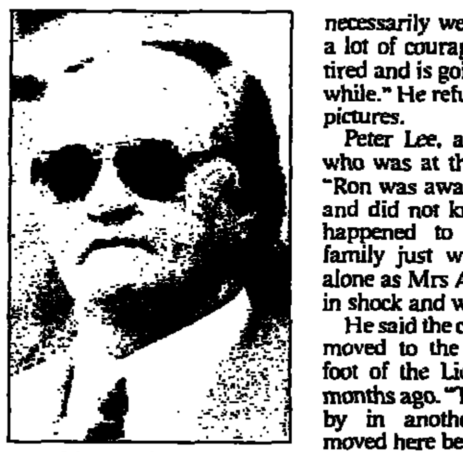
He tried to telephone his wife at home but kept getting the answering machine and reported the problem to BT as a potential fault.

The Atkinsons, who married six years ago, are believed to be under contract to tell the story of Wednesday night's incident to a national newspaper. But in a brief interview with the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* Mr Atkinson, 56, said yesterday: "The police formed the impression that the burglars had no idea it was my place and that it was just a coincidence."

A spokesman for West Mercia police said last night: "Mrs Atkinson heard noises in the hall and went to investigate. She was confronted by three men wearing balaclavas.

"They forced her to lead them into the bedroom. They were extremely aggressive and stole the jewellery she was wearing. Mrs Atkinson was not physically hurt apart from abrasions caused by the handcuffs, but she was obviously extremely distressed.

"We would ask anyone who saw anything suspicious in the area of Mearse Lane to contact us." No value has been given for the stolen items. Mr Atkinson said last night: "It has been particularly distressing, but fortunately Maggie is very resilient and took it, not necessarily well, but showed a lot of courage. She is very tired and is going to bed for a while." He refused to pose for pictures.



Atkinson: in London at the time of the attack

Peter Lee, a family friend who was at the house, said: "Ron was away for the night and did not know what had happened to Maggie. The family just want to be left alone as Mrs Atkinson is still in shock and wishes to rest."

He said the couple had only moved to the house, at the foot of the Lickey Hills, six months ago. "They lived close by in another house but moved here because it was so secluded," he said.

A neighbour, who did not want to be named, said: "I think she will bear up under the strain but it must have been very frightening. If only she could have got to a phone she would have been able to get help instead of lying there all night."

The Lloyd Webbers, disliked "pin cushion" look

Earl's phone mast riles composer

By Michael Horsnell

THE ERECTION of a 50ft mobile telephone relay mast on the Earl of Carnarvon's estate has led to a war of words with his neighbours, Sir Andrew and Lady Lloyd Webber.

The composer and his wife have objected to the local council, which is considering whether to grant planning permission to the metal tower, which stands in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty on the Highclere Estate in Berkshire. Lord Carnarvon, the Queen's racing manager, allowed Vodafone to erect it last November on his land under Beacon Hill near Newbury on a temporary basis, for which he receives a nominal rent.

The 7th Earl said yesterday that he had allowed it subject to full permission by the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. A recommendation by its planning officers to go ahead will be considered next week. The relay mast, complete with antennae, is needed to boost the signal on the Vodafone network. Sir Andrew and his wife, who live two miles from Lord Carnarvon's Highclere Castle, cannot see it from their home.

But Lady Lloyd Webber said: "We are not whingeing on about what's going on in our backyard. I am just astonished that the council and the landowner should allow permission for this mast to go up in an area of outstanding natural beauty. With all these masts sprouting up, the countryside is going to be turned into a pin cushion."

Lord Carnarvon said: "You have to judge the mast on what it looks like in its present position against the national need for mobile telephones. If there is a big enough objection locally then we shall not agree to it becoming permanent."

The local authority is believed to have received eight objections.

Lottery winners say they never had it so good

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

TWO men who scooped the National Lottery jackpot countered the myth yesterday that winning a fortune leads to misery, broken relationships, press persecution, begging letters and excess.

Bob Westland, a former sub-postmaster from Alloa, near Stirling, who won £3.8 million last July, told the Heritage Select Committee's inquiry into the lottery that it had made him very happy and secure. Mr Westland, 58, who has fulfilled his wife Ann's dream of buying a *small country house hotel* that they are to run as a family business, denied suggestions from MPs that becoming a *millionaire* overnight could lead to misery.

"Anyone who says it will make you miserable doesn't know what they are talking about," he said. In addition to setting up the hotel business with two of his sons and his wife, a former deputy headmistress, Mr Westland has given away £500,000 and has set up another son with his own company.

Ken Southwell, a former communications engineer who won £839,000 on the first lottery draw, in November 1994, said that he had been perfectly happy with his life before his win, but conceded that the win had given him financial security for life. He had also paid off his sister's mortgage and set up a financial fund for her.

Although he had initially been disappointed that his employer, Tele-Aerial Satellite, a subsidiary of BSkyB, had questioned his continuing loyalty and asked him to leave, Mr Southwell, 37, said that with hindsight the firm had done him a favour. He now runs buys and lets houses and plans to expand. Both men said that they did not think that the jackpot prizes were *too large*. Asked if the win had led to *intrusive* media coverage, Mr Westland said that the opposite was true. Media interest had been a "seven-day wonder", he said, and had been very well handled by Camelot, the lottery operator.

Mr Southwell said he did not really have the chance to avoid publicity as a winner in the first draw but it had not bothered him. Neither went on a spending spree.

The only criticism the two men had was that they would have preferred two sessions with Camelot's financial advisers instead of one. Asked by MPs how they chose their numbers, Mr Southwell said his were based on birthdays while Mr Westland *revealed* his were random.

Parishioners' charity donations went to 'nonexistent' orphanage

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

PARISHIONERS at a church in North Wales have given thousands of pounds to an orphanage in India that does not appear to exist.

For more than ten years, up to 50 churchgoers at Mold, Clwyd, have held coffee mornings and collected donations in envelopes to help an orphanage in Rajahmundry.

In return for £16,000 given since 1983, they received regular reports on the progress of the children said to be in the orphanage, as well as audited accounts of how their money was being spent.

But although photographs continued to arrive, the children's case histories dried up and the Vicar of Mold, the Rev Ian Day, asked his local MP, David Hanson, to have the orphanage checked out. His parishioners were horrified to learn from the Foreign Office that "the orphanage appears to exist on paper only".

According to Jeremy Hanley, a Foreign Office Minister, the organisation was registered by a local Indian driver who has since been receiving donations from sources in various countries.

After the investigations by the British Council division in Hyderabad, Mr Hanley advised donors not to send any more cash to the "charity".

Last night Mr Day, who said he has made the affair public to warn other donors, said that he still hoped further investigations might elicit positive news. The address given for the orphanage is in a particularly remote part of the country and has not been visited by a British Council official.

Mr Day said: "We have got lots of pictures of children. We have got children's histories from the early years."

He said the parishioners had originally been put in touch with the orphanage by the Girls' Friendly Society of London. They had it checked twice by a representative of the Anglican Church of Southern India, who told them the orphanage was genuine and needed 100 rupees a month for each child.

Mr Day said he now had mixed feelings about the generosity of his flock. "There is a sense of pride at being part of a community that wanted to do something so positive to help," he said. "But there is also total disappointment that they appear to have been duped. I am quite saddened by it."

He said he was uplifted by the desire of his parishioners still to help the needy. "One lady said that if she couldn't give money there, she will give it elsewhere," the vicar said.

Mr Hanson, Labour MP for Delyn, will be tabling questions in Parliament on the charity next week. He said: "My instinct is to support the local church. They raised it with me because they felt unsure of the feedback they were getting. I'm going to ask for further investigations from the Foreign Office."

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Farmers face abyss of all-out slaughter

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

DAIRY and beef farmers are staring into the abyss as they contemplate the possibility of the slaughter of the entire national cattle herd to wipe out "mad cow" disease.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, shocked the farming community by confirming that wholesale slaughter was "one of the options that is open" should there be a surge in cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), the human counterpart of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, said he could not imagine such a policy ever being necessary but admitted: "I supposed anything could be done if that is the right way to protect public health."

Nearly 160,000 cattle showing symptoms of BSE have already been slaughtered and destroyed. In the last comparable animal health crisis, some 400,000 livestock were culled in an epidemic of foot-and-mouth in 1967. But what is now being contemplated would be unprecedented.

Britain has 12 million head of beef and dairy cattle on some 136,000 farms, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC). More than half of all farmers earn at least some of their income from cattle.

The breeding stock consists of 3.2 million dairy cows and heifers and 2.1 million beef cows and heifers. In addition, there are 6.7 million calves and younger animals being reared for their meat on both dairy and beef farms.

Mick Sloyan, the MLC's chief economist, said: "Last year we reckon that farmers earned £2 billion from the slaughter of 3.3 million cattle. The total farmgate value of milk and milk products was around £3.3 billion."

The most common dairy breed is the Holstein Friesian. Among the the most popular beef breeds are Charollais and Limousin, both of French origin, and Hereford and Aberdeen Angus. Small numbers of rare breeds are also reared for beef and milk.

Lawrence Alderson, director of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, said: "It is hard to see how there could be any justification for slaughtering these animals. They are mostly raised on grass and would be most unlikely to have been fed the kind of rations which caused BSE."

If compensation was paid at about £700 a head, the current rate for BSE cattle, the slaughter of the breeding stock of 5.3 million cows alone would cost the Government £3.7 billion. Other animals would not qualify for such high payments but meat industry sources suggested the total bill could amount to £7 billion.

"Compensation for the culled animals would not be the end of it," Mr Sloyan said. "You would then have to restock the national herd with imported cattle. Finding 12 million suitable replacements would be a major task in itself." Even if the slaughter was limited to herds that have had BSE, the result would still be devastating. Ninety-eight per cent of all cases of BSE have occurred in dairy herds.

Alison Best, the NFU's regional adviser in the South West, a prime dairy area, said: "We must not go overboard and devastate an entire industry." But Richard Haddock, who rears 1,000 beef cattle on his farm at Kingswear, near Dartmouth, said drastic measures were needed to restore public confidence. He suggested that all older dairy cattle should be destroyed and banned from sale as beef.

☐ *The Archers* was re-recorded at the eleventh hour yesterday to bring the latest BSE scare to Ambridge. Scriptwriters took the rare step of rewriting last night's episode to allow the characters in the long-running BBC Radio 4 serial to air their views on the subject. Actors were re-called to the Birmingham studio to record a new storyline.

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Cattle prices slumped by an average of 12 per cent in Britain's livestock markets yesterday, according to the Meat and Livestock Commission. Farmers held back rather than sell their animals with the price low and the number of cattle going through markets was down by about 30 per cent. Prices for steers, heifers and young bulls averaged 107.3p per kilogram liveweight, down 14p on the previous week, bringing down the average price per head from £693 to £612.

Farmers at the cattle market in Banbury yesterday. More than half of all British farmers earn at least some of their income from cattle

Why agriculture is a special case

By Nigel Williamson
Whitehall Correspondent

FEW industries other than farming have been so immune to market forces. Even a radical Conservative Government committed to the iron law of the market has done little to reduce the £2.8 billion a year subsidy to British farmers. Much of that comes from the European Union but the coal and steel industries never enjoyed such treatment.

Tony Fowler of the Meat and Livestock Commission said: "The case is partly strategic and goes back to the Second World War and the shortage of food supplies that continued for several years afterwards." He also cited social and economic reasons.

"Rural communities would be depopulated. Without some sort of help, farmers' incomes would suffer badly and so would the rural economy." The Ministry of Agriculture endorsed the arguments. A spokesman said: "If you didn't have subsidies there would be no farming in hill areas, in the uplands such as the Pennines and in much of Scotland and Wales." The department also emphasised environmental reasons.

SUBSIDIES

Nevertheless, the Government is committed to making agriculture more market-oriented but the biggest obstacle remains the common agricultural policy.

The department said: "If you moved to market forces overnight, agriculture would be wiped out not just in the uplands but in most of southern Europe. Agriculture has to be subsidised to keep it going." The argument would have sounded familiar to Arthur Scargill.

Industry says Government must foot bill if jobs go

By Andrew Pierce

LEADERS of Britain's £12 billion meat industry have said that the Government could face a massive compensation bill if the BSE scare has a serious impact on sales.

At a private meeting with Angela Browning, the junior Agriculture Minister, on Wednesday representatives made clear they would hold the Government responsible if there were any job losses and bankruptcies.

Meat producers fear a salmonella-in-eggs type of crisis that could cost thousands of jobs in the industry, already affected by a growing trend towards vegetarianism. Beef sales are about £4 billion, almost a third of the industry's annual turnover.

The Ministry of Agriculture paid £8.3 million compensation for enforced slaughtering of hens after Edwina Currie, while Health Minister, said most of Britain's farmed chickens were infected with salmonella.

Feelings are running high in the meat trade, which employs about 40,000 people. The decision to delay until Sunday an announcement about the effect of BSE on children has further worried producers and retailers.

COMPENSATION

The Meat and Livestock Commission is considering a one-off levy on members to fund an advertising campaign extolling the virtues of British beef. John Fuller, chief executive of the National Federation of Meat and Food Traders which represents 3,500 independent butcher's shops, said: "We will be fighting hard once more to advise the public and our members about the virtues of British beef. But it is a real pain that every time the scare goes away the Government releases another batch of information.

"We have been left dangling in the air with the prospect of more announcements at the weekend. Mrs Browning, at our meeting, agreed to meet with us to discuss our concerns over compensation if there is a collapse in sales."

The ministry can artificially support the price of beef through intervention in the market. It can buy beef, freeze it and sell it back to the market when demand has recovered. "It is an option open to us through the common agriculture policy," a spokesman said. "Whether we would give compensation to farmers direct has not been considered at this stage."

Outbreak probably started in sheep

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

BSE in Britain probably originated from sheep flocks that carried an especially resilient form of scrapie, veterinary scientists believe.

When, in the 1970s and early 80s, two vital changes were made to the procedures for producing animal feed from sheep carcasses, this particular scrapie agent proved tough enough to survive in sufficient amounts to infect cows.

The epidemic then multiplied when infection was recycled from BSE-infected carcasses, before the feeding of protein derived from both cows and sheep was banned in July 1988. Meat and bonemeal from sheep carcasses had been used for cattle feeds for years before BSE appeared. The evidence is that it was changes in rendering procedures, partly to economise on energy consumption, that enabled the infective agent to survive.

ORIGINS

Lower temperatures in the rendering process and a decline in the use of solvents to extract fats from animal bones and offal combined to cause the problem. Steam was used in the final stage of solvent extraction, which could have helped to destroy the scrapie agent present in the bones.

No official approval was needed for these changes. Scientists were aware that sheep had been suffering from scrapie, probably for centuries, but there was no evidence that it could be transmitted to humans or cows. Like BSE and CJD, scrapie is a prion disease but it appeared to pose no threat to human health.

The evidence that BSE originated from a single scrapie strain comes from the observation that the agent of BSE in all British cows appears to be identical. When injected into mice, samples of the BSE agent from all over the country produce the same symptoms after the same incubation period. This is in contrast to the variety of incubation periods and patterns of brain damage found when scrapie agent from different sheep flocks is used to infect the mice.

Farmers may sue abattoirs

By Dominic Kennedy

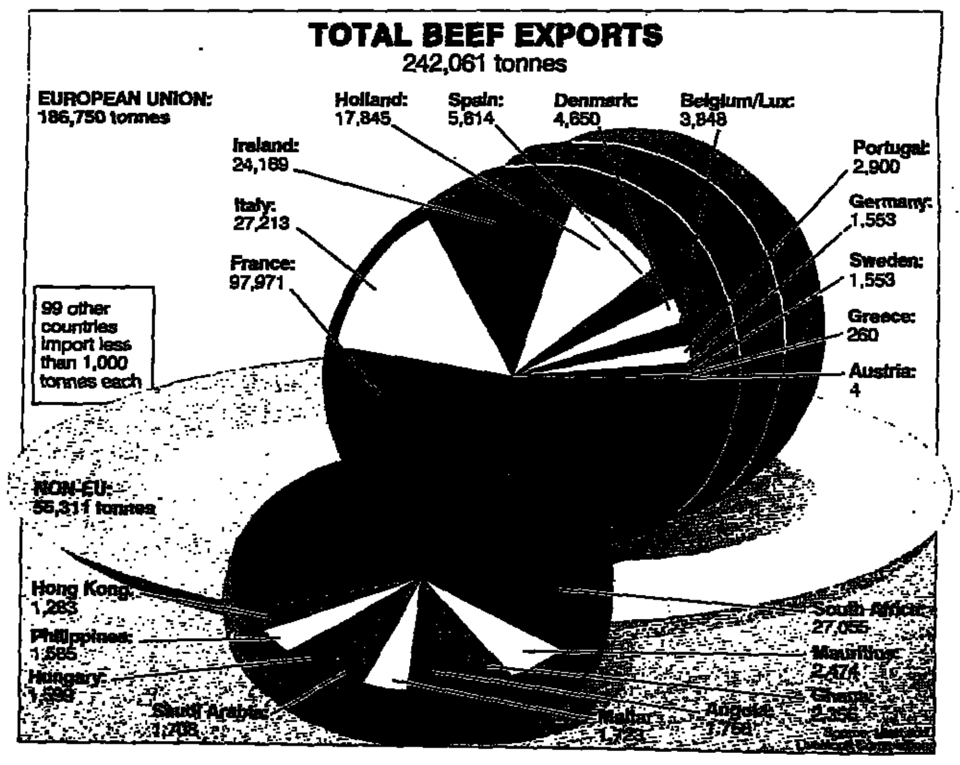
THE National Farmers' Union is considering suing abattoirs for the spread of "mad cow" disease.

The farmers' union is seeking legal advice about the chances of winning damages because sheep offal fed to cattle in the 1980s was infected with scrapie, probably the cause of BSE. However, there is usually a six-year limit on suing for damages. The union sought advice some years ago about similar action and was told it would be very difficult.

Farmers could issue writs against the abattoirs or the suppliers of the sheep meat.

Lawyers for the families of CJD victims yesterday called for a public inquiry to establish how the disease may have spread from cattle to humans. David Body, of the law firm Irwin Mitchell, acknowledged it would be difficult to sue through the courts on the strength of the evidence so far.

The Ministry of Agriculture would be the prime target for any civil action because of its role as a regulator but, Mr Body said, there was controversy over the duties to the public of a government body.



An export trade worth £520 million a year is in jeopardy after the decision by France, Britain's biggest market, to impose an immediate ban on imports of British beef. Belgium has followed suit and other countries may do likewise, threatening one of Britain's most successful exports in spite of intermittent concern over BSE. The alarm will undoubtedly prove much harder to quell than previous scares and Britain may this time be unable to fend off demands for a Europe-wide ban. The total value of beef exports is £520 million, of which European Union countries account for £457 million.

Outside the EU, South Africa is by far the biggest destination for British beef, taking 27,055 tonnes. Although beef exports were badly hit six years ago when BSE first became a public health issue, they have climbed steadily since, more than doubling from the 1990 level of 110,000 tonnes. Exports have also been greatly helped by the devaluation of the pound since 1992. Even a partial export ban, requiring all beef to be certified as coming from a herd which has never had BSE, would have a big impact. Just over half of all dairy herds have had one or more cases of BSE since 1986.

Disaster brings business boom

FOR one group of farmers "mad cow disease" has proved to be a boon rather than a disaster (Michael Hornsby writes).

No cow born and bred on organic farms has succumbed to BSE, leading to growing interest in the beef produced by the small number of farmers who rear livestock in this way. There are only 200 organic beef producers in Britain, accounting for just 12,000 of the 3.3 million cattle slaughtered each year.

One of the biggest is Helen Browning, who keeps 250 dairy cows and produces about 150 beef cattle a year at Bishopstone in Wiltshire.

To meet organic standards, she has to observe strict rules on what she can feed her cattle. The bulk of their diet consists of forage, supplemented by organically grown rolled oats and high-protein soya. Sales of Mrs Browning's beef rose by about 15 per cent last December when BSE was last in the news. "People are looking more closely at what they eat," she said. "There is no doubt that BSE has contributed to that."

ORGANIC FARMING

Because output is lower than conventional farms, organic farmers have to charge more. Mrs Browning charges a premium of up to 25 per cent which customers are prepared to pay because they are assured of quality. But the price of organic produce is likely to mean that organic farmers will never be able supply more than a niche market.

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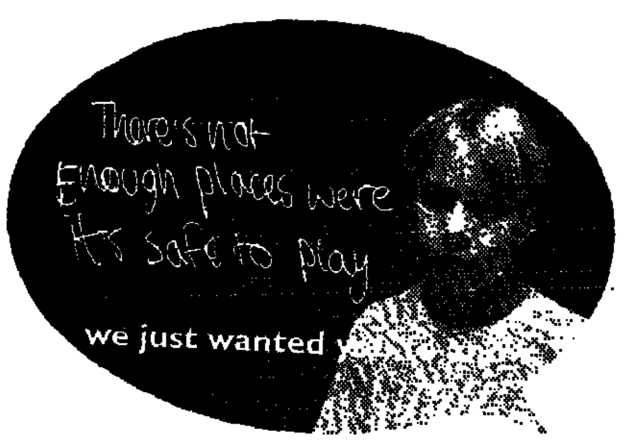
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Short incubation period may explain youth of victims

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

CJD INFECTION

THERE is no evidence that children or young people are especially vulnerable to infection with the new form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a leading expert said yesterday.

The ten cases so far identified have an average age of 27 but James Ironside, of the CJD surveillance unit at Western General Hospital in Edinburgh said that this did not point to a greater vulnerability among the young.

"If we accept the hypothesis that these cases are caused by exposure to BSE, then if the entire population was exposed, the disease would appear first in the young because their incubation period is shorter," Dr Ironside said.

If this is correct, then as time passes older people will also start appearing with the distinctive symptoms of the new form of the disease.

Why the incubation period should be shorter in young people is not known, though it has been observed in similar diseases. In Kuru, the disease spread by cannibalism in Papua New Guinea, the youngest patient was aged five.

One possibility is simply a function of size, Dr Ironside said. "The nerves are shorter in children," he said. "If we assume that the causative agent has to make its way up the spinal column to the brain, it will take less time if the spine is shorter."

An alternative explanation, suggested by John Wilson, a consultant neurologist from Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, is that young people are simply more exposed to the causative agent because of their taste for fast foods, including beefburgers: "The truth is, we don't know."

Given that the new cases suggest that the infective agent can jump from cows to man, the question that will determine the number of cases is the ease with which this "species barrier" can be jumped. For years, ministers have insisted that any such jump was very unlikely; that claim must now be abandoned. But if the barrier is a high one, the number of cases might remain low.

Experiments in progress at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, might provide an answer. The team led by John Collinge has been trying to transmit the infectious agent responsible for the disease to mice that have been genetically engineered to carry a human brain protein.

The causative agent of all the spongiform encephalopathies — scrapie in sheep, BSE in cows, and CJD in humans — is believed to be an aberrant form of the prion protein. Normally, prions are harmless proteins found on the surface of brain cells but they can be altered into a modified form which causes the brain changes seen in the disease.

The alteration of the prion (the word stands for "proteinaceous infectious particle") may occur spontaneously, may have genetic causes, or may happen when normal prion protein comes into contact with the abnormal type — as in BSE and, it appears, CJD.

While not all experts accept the prion model of CJD, it is certainly the leading candidate. One problem is that it is difficult to explain the various strains of the prion diseases by such a simple model.

Councils react with instant ban to protect pupils

By Stephen Farrell

SCHOOL MEALS

SCHOOLS around the country banned beef from their menus yesterday as caterers accused health ministers of spreading confusion over BSE.

Up to 10,000 schools, one third of the total, have either removed beef from dinner tables or limited its use, the Local Authority Caterers' Association claims. Derbyshire, Bedfordshire, Cleveland, Clwyd, Nottinghamshire and Berkshire county councils and Birmingham City Council all announced an immediate or delayed beef ban, which is already in place in Cambridgeshire, Kent, East Sussex and Ealing. The ban was also announced yesterday in Gloucestershire and all 255 schools in Bradford.

All primary, nursery and special schools and ten secondary schools in Manchester have withdrawn beef. Durham, Cumbria, Calderdale, Islington and Sunderland authorities joined those who plan to review their policy, while others are leaving the decision to individual schools.

Pat Fellowes, chairman of the caterers' association, which represents 70 authorities, said councils awaited the outcome of weekend discussions on BSE and children. "Parents, pupils, teachers and caterers are confused and want public confidence restored," she said. "In the meantime our advice will be unchanged. We suggest that local authority caterers should provide customers with a wide choice of menu items so that there are always alternatives to beef."

The largest supplier of school meals, BET Catering Services, said that the decision to withdraw beef was at the discretion of local authorities. "The majority of the authorities to which we provide services have already removed beef from the primary school menu, and those that haven't are giving it serious consideration," a spokeswoman said.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities planned to relax its guidelines on beef on Wednesday, but withdrew the decision after the government's announcement. Graham Lane, chairman of its education committee, said guidance recommending a ban or offering options on menus would stay in force "for the foreseeable future".

"The government has confused everyone," she said. "It has now given the impression that all beef is dangerous. I don't think it meant to do that, but that is what has come out. Many authorities feel puzzled the line has changed so dramatically. I think most people feel we may have to keep beef off menus completely."

Euro-ban on beef

Continued from page 1

and the European Commission's agriculture spokesman said that France had broken EU rules by failing to give notice of the ban.

But the French agriculture ministry defended the move by citing two European directives which, it said, permitted such action in "cases of doubt about the sanitary quality of a product or animal".

In the past three months France has tightened health controls and cross-border inspections, but resisted demands from farmers for a complete ban on British beef. These were renewed before the embargo was announced yesterday when Claude Allo of the French National Cattle Federation said: "The English are in danger of exporting to us the problem they have already stirred up in English public opinion. There is only one thing to be done: stop these imports as a matter of urgency."

The Agriculture Minister Philippe Vasseur responded with an announcement that he was suspending imports of British beef and live cattle "to provide all the necessary guarantees to French consumers pending the full results of European scientific experts in this matter".

Belgium also announced a ban on imports, which total about 8,000 tonnes a year and are worth about £12 million, while The Netherlands said it was suspending imports of live cattle, beef and beef products from Britain until the Commission made its definitive ruling on Monday.

There was one crumb of comfort for the Government when Denmark dismissed the other countries' bans as "a very violent reaction".

At Westminster, however, the Government came under attack from Labour which accused ministers of procrastination and delay. Tony Blair called for "a categorical statement" that the scientific advice was that it was "entirely safe" to carry on feeding beefburgers to children. "The clearer and better those statements, the sooner public concern will be allayed," he said.

But the Prime Minister stopped short of giving that categorical assurance, saying only that there was no scientific evidence to suggest children were more at risk than adults.

Despite such assurances, more schools joined the ten thousand that had already abandoned serving beef. Ten authorities announced bans at all or some of their schools yesterday and another five are to review their policies.

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JULIAN HERBERT

No beef at home, but Amy Adams loves burgers

Burgers remain children's school dinner favourite

By Joanna Bale

FACED with the choice of beefburgers or chicken pie yesterday, nine out of ten primary pupils went for the juicy quarter pounder.

Even when one curious seven-year-old asked the headmaster, who lunched with them, what all the fuss was about, the children carried on eating as he tried to explain that "some people think beef might not be safe to eat".

Tony Hawkins, head of Fairisle Junior School in Southampton, where there are 305 pupils aged seven to 11, said: "I told them that there was a question over whether beef might be safe to eat, but they all carried on eating their burgers.

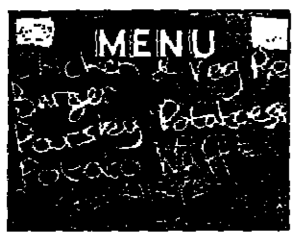
"They are too young really to understand what is going on and they do love beefburgers. It's always the most popular choice."

Mr Hawkins, who has been headmaster at the school since 1983, said he had only received one phone call so far from a concerned parent about the scare. However, he expected it to be one of the main topics of conversation at a parents' evening later that day.

He said: "It is Hampshire's policy to offer beef in schools, always with an alternative. Until that changes, we will have to carry on as we are. I still eat beef myself."

One parent, Julie Adams, 32, had already written requesting beef to be withdrawn. As she waited for Amy, 11, and Ashley, 10, she said: "I raised the matter some time last year, but was just told that my children have a choice if they want it.

"I don't want them eating beef, but try getting them to eat other things when there are burgers on the menu. I haven't eaten it for two years, but it's difficult to stop kids eating it when they get it at school."



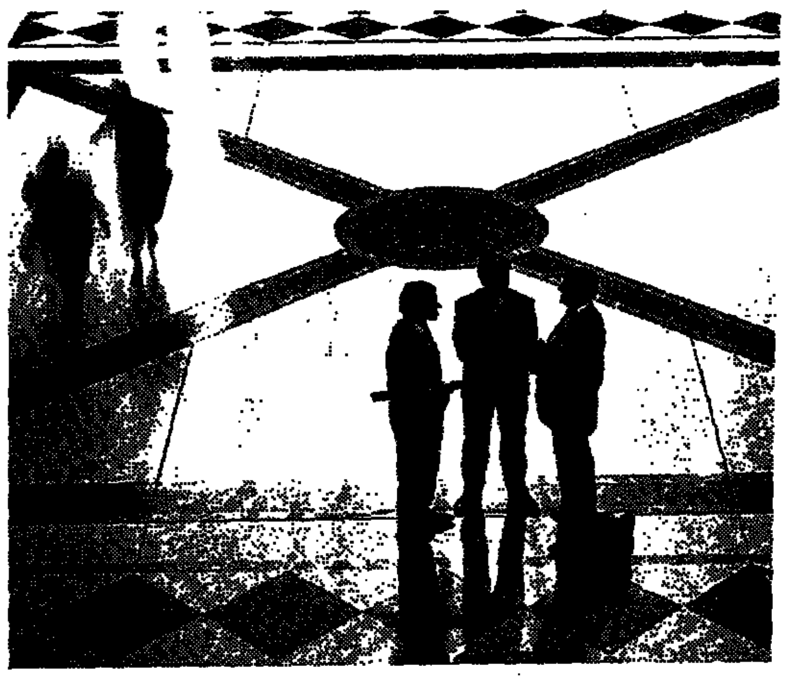
Sign of the times: beef was still the top choice

Jenny Middleton, 58, who was picking up her grandchildren Claire, 10, Sarah, nine and Lucy, seven, said: "I don't eat red meat for health reasons, never mind BSE. It's a disgrace that the Government has only just warned people when they must have known there was a risk."

She said she was babysitting her grand daughters at their home that evening. "I've just had a look in the freezer to see what there is for tea," she added. "It's all burgers and mince. I'm not happy, but that's all they seem to eat."

Darren Rankin seemed unconcerned about Aaron, nine and Carly, eight, being fed burgers at school. He said: "They love them and we eat a lot of them at home. You can't spend your life worrying about something that will probably never happen. It's much more dangerous driving a car, but we still do it."

Aaron nodded in agreement with his dad and added: "Burgers are my favourite."



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Nurse accepts £50,000 for race prejudice

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A PAKISTANI-BORN nurse has won £50,000 from a National Health Service trust over allegations that she was the victim of racial discrimination and harassment.

Nargis Firdous said she had been hounded for more than 12 months by her white boss at the Bethlem psychiatric hospital in Denmark Hill, south London.

Mrs Firdous, 43, a registered mental nurse earning £27,000, also complained yesterday that Unison, her union, had not taken her complaints seriously. After reaching an out-of-court settlement, Mrs Firdous, of Streatham, south London, said: "The money has compensated me to some extent but my losses are much more than £50,000. It was not an issue of winning or losing, it was a matter of principle."

Mrs Firdous, who trained in Pakistan but has worked as a nurse in Britain for 20 years, brought her case with the help of the Commission for Racial Equality after being sacked in 1994.

She was appointed manager of a ward of difficult psychiatric patients at the hospital in 1991 and inspectors complimented her on her energy, commitment and experience. In 1993 a new line manager was appointed and began to try to have Mrs Firdous removed, claiming she was "unsafe and dangerous".

Mrs Firdous said yesterday that a white colleague who replaced her for six months was not accused of being "unsafe or dangerous" even though in one 24-hour period there were 12 fires on the ward. On another occasion a patient was absent without permission and subsequently committed suicide, but the white manager was not blamed.

Mrs Firdous took the Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust and Michol Fisher, her manager, to an industrial tribunal. After 11 days she accepted the £50,000 settlement.

SIMON WALKER

Nargis Firdous yesterday outside the offices in London of the Commission for Racial Equality

Blunkett moves to upstage government plans

Labour seeks to double sixth-formers' workload

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

SIXTH-FORMERS should spend almost twice as long in the classroom to try to match the achievements of their continental counterparts, Labour said yesterday in measures designed to trump government plans to be announced next week.

The typical A-level student has about 18 hours of lessons a week, compared with 30 for courses in France and Germany. Labour wants to bridge the gap with new programmes to broaden the curriculum.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, announcing the *Aiming High* policy document, said pupils might spend part of the extra time on supervised use of high-tech learning packages, rather than formal lessons. Bryan Davies, Labour spokesman on further and higher education, said students were more extended at GCSE than at A level, particularly if sixth-formers took a limited number of subjects. Sixth-formers taking A levels or vocational qualifications should learn "core skills" required by employers, such as communication, advanced numeracy and the use of information technology.

But David Summerscale, headmaster of Westminster School, where sixth-formers average more than three As at A level on six hours' tuition a week per subject, said students needed time for independent study, to master learning for themselves. David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers, said Labour risked appearing to tell teachers and students "that the nanny state knows best".

Tony Evans, headmaster of Portsmouth Grammar School and chairman of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference, welcomed the scope for breadth at A level but added: "It is, of course, a fallacy to believe that the more time you spend on something the better the results."

Blunkett: announced Labour policy document

Several of Labour's proposals mirror reforms expected to be put forward next week by Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's senior curriculum adviser. Among them are an Advanced Diploma linking academic and vocational qualifications, work-related courses in further education colleges for some 14-year-olds, and a move to raise the status of advanced vocational courses by calling them Applied A Levels. The diploma would be awarded for a minimum of two A levels or a General National Vocational Qualification and success in the core skills.

In another echo of Sir Ron's plans, high-flyers could take modules of university courses while still at school.

Pupils aged under 16 might spend a day or half a day at further education college on job-related topics, without sacrificing the national curriculum, Mr Blunkett said. He admitted that colleges would not be falling over themselves to take in disaffected 14-year-olds who currently spent their time playing truant.

Peter Smith, of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, gave warning that the scheme could become an "excuse for licensed truanting". But John Dunford, of the Secondary Heads Association, said the courses could motivate young people.

Education, page 36

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Vitamin E cuts the likelihood of a heart attack

MEDICAL BRIEFING

HIGH doses of vitamin E can reduce the risk of a coronary by 75 per cent in patients with heart disease, research has found.

A team of Cambridge University medical scientists led by Professor Morris Brown and Dr Malcolm Mitchinson has been studying the effect of vitamin E supplements on 2,000 patients with heart disease. Their findings, published in *The Lancet*, show that vitamin E supplements are more effective than aspirin or cholesterol-lowering drugs in preventing heart disease.

Many fatty foods, including butter, peanuts, sunflower and soya oil, are rich in vitamin E but all have a high calorific value and some are not suitable for cardiac patients.

However, not even the strictest dietitian would object to a patient with heart disease eating olives, mackerel, tuna, herrings and salmon, all foods with a naturally high vitamin E content; and the diet would be even better if the salmon was accompanied by asparagus, the vegetable richest in vitamin E.

However, even if a cardiac patient was to have a traditional Mediterranean diet supplemented with salmon and asparagus at every meal, they would not achieve levels of vitamin E high enough to alter the risk of heart disease to the same extent that has been demonstrated by the Cambridge experiment. The daily intake of vitamin E in a well-balanced diet is between 10.4 and 13.4 international units.

Professor Brown's and Dr Mitchinson's patients were given between 400 and 800 IUs daily. When taking vitamin E at these doses, the risk of a heart attack was no greater for one of their cardiac patients than it would be for people who were not suffering from any detectable heart complaint.

A vitamin-enriched diet has been scorned by more traditional doctors ever since vitamins were discovered. The accepted teaching is that supplements are unnecessary if someone's diet is well-balanced and, in the case of some vitamins, can be dangerous.

No vitamin has been more controversial than vitamin E. Its value has been understood only since study of the ability of the anti-oxidant vitamins, of which E is one, to prevent atherosclerosis (furring of the arteries).

Vitamin E supplements are particularly important for heavy drinkers as alcohol depresses levels of the vitamin, as do iron or vitamin A supplements. As vitamin E is fat-soluble, it should be taken with food. Earlier research has suggested that the vitamin is more beneficial if the daily allowance is taken in several doses.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

STATE OF VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

ELECTION

SATURDAY 30 MARCH 1996

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For the nearest Postal Voting Centre, telephone Victoria House, London on 0171 836 2656, or enquire at any Australian Embassy.

In the UK, you may vote in person during weekdays between 9.30am and 4.30pm at Victoria House, until 4.30pm on Friday 29 March 1996.

Please note there will be no voting facilities at Victoria House on election day, Saturday 30 March.

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You may apply for postal voting material to be sent to an address nominated by you. Applications are available from Victoria House by telephoning 0171 836 2656.

Electoral Roll Enquiries

The roll for the 1996 State Election closed on 8 March 1996.

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Women-only classes in driving safety break equality law

By Adrian Lee

A GARAGE that runs car-safety classes for women only was told yesterday it was breaking the law by excluding men. The move, which will have implications for a variety of organisations, angered women's groups.

Local authorities, clubs and police who run safety, car maintenance and fitness classes could all be affected.

In a statement, the Equal Opportunities Commission said women-only classes breached Section 29 of the Sexual Discrimination Act of 1975. Anyone running them could "lay themselves open to a legal challenge".

The Department for Education and Employment confirmed that classes for women only broke the law. A spokeswoman said the law was not clear on organisations that implied by the titles of classes that men were not welcome, as there had been no test cases. Organisations could not get round the law by offering separate classes for men and women.

The dispute began when Sandicliffe Motors, a Ford dealership in Ilkeston, Derbyshire, sought clarification on a promotion which included cost-price petrol and cheap car-servicing for women drivers. During discussions, the Equal Opportunities Commission advised the garage that its women's workshops, run for five years, could also be illegal.

The RAC, which has run "women's workshops" for 100,000 female drivers over the past five years, said it would review its classes but described the advice from the commission as "nonsense". Its workshops, begun after the murder of Marie Wilks on the M50 in 1988, were unashamedly aimed at women. Men were welcome but, a spokesman said: "We feel it is important to keep the word 'women' in the title so women don't get put off." A spokeswoman for Sandicliffe Motors said: "We were told we were breaking the law and the EOC said it could challenge them itself if we went ahead. It is ridiculous."

The classes featured safety videos and a lecture by a crime prevention officer. "Women don't want men there," said the spokeswoman.

Fiona Brown, of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, set up after Miss Lamplugh, an estate agent, was abducted, said: "It is most unhelpful. These classes are addressed to people who want to feel more secure when driving alone."

Anne Peck, of the Centre for Independent Transport Research, which has studied women's attitudes to safety while travelling, said: "Women ought to have a choice. Some women have had experiences which deter them from attending classes where men are present. A number of studies have shown there is a place for women-only spaces."

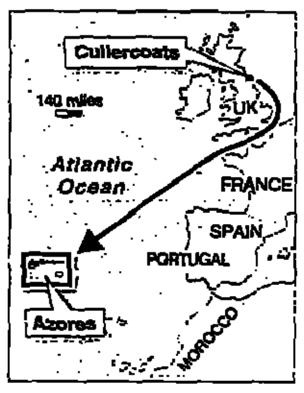
Lifeboatmen struggling with Queenie, the rapidly growing 7ft conger eel that they have helped to return to its spawning ground in the Azores

RNLI berth aids an expectant eel

By A Staff Reporter

A LIFEBOAT crew has come to the aid of a 7ft conger eel. The 70lb fish, named Queenie, was given a lift at the start of its journey to the Azores, spawning grounds of the conger eel, by the crew of the *Edmund and Joan White*.

The eel had been at the Dove Marine Laboratory at Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear, for six years after being caught in a fisherman's nets. When it outgrew its tank the eel was taken to Tynemouth Sea Life Centre, before staff realised the reason for its rapid growth was that it was full of eggs.



The only place it could safely release them is in the deep spawning grounds of the Azores 4,000 metres below the surface, where the pressure will force the millions of eggs from its body. Spawning will be Queenie's last task because it will die after releasing the eggs.

However, the eel had to be given a flying start by the lifeboatmen. After a bit of a struggle to lift it into the boat, they took the fish a mile offshore and slipped it back into the sea where it will join other migrating eels on a journey that will last until late spring.

Justin Measures, Sea Life's senior aquarist, said: "If we had just put her in the sea from the shore there is a good chance she would have been washed back. But the lifeboat gave her a fighting chance of making it to the Azores in safety."

Raymond Taylor, the lifeboat secretary at Cullercoats, said: "We were happy to do a good turn for the Sea Life centre because it has always helped us with fundraising."

Cambridge dons oppose tobacco firm's £1.6m gift

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

A £1.6 million donation may be turned down by Cambridge University because of a dispute about the ethics of accepting tobacco company profits.

Senior members of the university are said to be "wobbling" over the proposed donation from BAT to set up the Sir Patrick Sheehy Professorship of International Relations, in honour of its former chairman. The money would also provide two post-doctoral posts, scholarships for overseas students and bursaries.

Academics opposed to the sponsorship hope to force a vote of all 3,000 full university members if the money is accepted at a university council meeting next term. It has been recommended by the general board of the faculties but strong opposition emerged at a private debate this week.

Earlier this month Oxford dons criticised a £350,000 donation from Dr Gert-Rudolf Flick, the grandson of a prominent Nazi industrialist, to set up a professorship at Balliol College.

Sir Keith Peters, Regius Professor of Physic, told the private meeting of Cambridge academics that, although such a large contribution would be helpful, the moral cost would be too great. Professor Timothy Cox, of the Department of Medicine, said: "This is a very major and complex issue. My position as a doctor is a very strong one against smoking and all of us in the medical school would err on that side."

Sir David Williams, the Vice-Chancellor, welcomed BAT's offer: "I had the privilege of working with Sir Patrick Sheehy in the successful effort to bring the Royal Commonwealth Library to Cambridge. We are delighted to be able to honour him in this way. He has made an outstanding contribution in the field of public relations."

Nick Forbes, the Student Union president, said: "While we might not like where the money is coming from, beggars cannot be choosers."

☐ One in eight street lights in Cambridgeshire is to be turned off to save £160,000, the county council decided yesterday. But a £25,000 donation from the city's council will allow Cambridge to remain fully lit, appeasing students who said the measure would jeopardise their safety. The county council also voted to curb roadbuilding, bridge maintenance, gritting and new pedestrian crossings.

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CHANGING TIMES

Howard to reveal third annual drop in recorded crime

By Stewart Tendler and Richard Ford

RECORDED crime in England and Wales fell by about 2 per cent last year, boosting the Government's claim to be curbing criminal behaviour.

The third successive annual drop will be hailed by Michael Howard as evidence that, for the time being, the cycle of rapidly rising crime has been broken. The figures will show, however, that offences rose during the second half of the year after a significant drop in the first six months.

Ministers will be anxious that the trend has not continued into this year, and there will also be ministerial concern at a rise in recorded violent crimes.

The figures, to be published next week, will show a further decline in vehicle crime, theft and household burglary. The decline in burglary is attributed, in part, to police activity such as Operation Bumblebee. The Home Secretary believes increased use of technology, particularly the spread of closed-circuit television, is an important factor.

There is concern, however, that the decline in crime may have ended. Recorded crime fell 5 per cent in 1994 and 1 per cent in 1993, having reached a record level in 1992. One Whitehall source said: "It has plateaued out. It is getting much harder to produce the falls that the Government wants to see."

The recorded crime statistics are based on the number of offences reported to police. An alternative view is given by the British Crime Survey, based on interviews with a representative sample of 10,000 people: it has consistently shown a much higher rate than the police statistics.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said last night: "Recorded crime figures must be treated with caution.

"The fall in crime could be because police recording methods have changed and fewer people are reporting crime because they do not think the police will catch anyone." He added that the underlying trend could be starting to rise again.

The number of arrests declined last year although some individual forces showed large rises in the number of people detained. In Northumbria, which Mr Howard is expected to visit soon, arrests were up 25 per cent and overall the force has shown a drop in crime for the past five years.

Durham is understood to have recorded a drop of about 11 per cent in overall crime and a 23 per cent decline in violent offences. The Metropolitan Police will also report a further fall.

Merseyside and Cambridgeshire are expected to report large increases in crime. Officials at the Home Office attributed the rise in Cambridgeshire to a new recording system.

Stella Rimington believes that the renewed terrorist campaign presents a grave security risk

New head of MI5 must tackle IRA terror threat

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

DAME Stella Rimington hands over her post as Director-General of MI5 next week as the renewed IRA bombing campaign poses a grave challenge to her successor.

Stephen Lander, 48, whose appointment as Dame Stella's replacement was announced last November, is expected to devote much of his time to surveillance of suspected IRA members on the mainland and protection of possible targets for assassination. Government officials who played a crucial role in formulating John Major's latest peace initiatives in Northern Ireland are known to be under 24-hour armed police guard.

The most recent respite from IRA bombs, after the Docklands explosion last month and the three subsequent bombs, has given no grounds for believing that the renewed campaign was merely a brief flurry to accelerate the peace process. Military bases and other facilities that appeared on the list found at the Lewisham home of Edward O'Brien, the IRA bomber who was killed in the Aldwych bus explosion, remain on heightened alert.

Lander: former director of counter-terrorism

Dame Stella, 60, who succeeded in persuading Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, to allow MI5 to help the police in combating organised crime, has found herself in the past few weeks devoting most of her energies towards countering the new IRA threat. Mr Lander, who is a former director of Irish counter-terrorism at MI5, will be expected to launch a renewed effort to forestall any further mainland attacks.

Dame Stella is acknowledged both within the Security Service and outside to have been a highly successful director-general. By adopting a public profile, giving lectures about the service and its aims and publishing brochures, she has helped to remove longstanding suspicions about MI5's role in Whitehall.

Her next job has not yet been announced. She had been considered for the post of Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, to succeed Lord St John of Fawsley, but narrowly failed to be chosen. She is known to want a job oustide government but may be offered a new security role in the Cabinet Office.

☐ A detective who helped to spearhead the secret war against the IRA after being severely maimed in a terrorist bombing died from cancer yesterday. Chief Superintendent Frank Murray, 51, refused to quit the force when he lost a leg, an arm and an eye in the attack 20 years ago.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Man bailed over death in Spain

A man was remanded on bail by Bow Street magistrates yesterday accused of killing a 14-year-old girl in a road accident in southern Spain seven years ago.

Peter Dawson-Ball, 42, of St Martin's, Guernsey, is charged with the manslaughter of Lizanne Pinna, whose family lived on Gibraltar, in 1989, within the jurisdiction of the Central Criminal Court.

Charges dropped

Three men arrested in connection with an arson attack last month on the car of Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, at his home in Norton sub Hamdon, Somerset, will not face charges, Avon and Somerset police said.

Tanker to go

The damaged supertanker *Sea Empress*, which spilt 72,000 tonnes of oil on the South Wales coast last month, is to be moved next week to Belfast for repairs. The Harland and Wolff shipyard beat off international competition for the contract.

Six life terms

Scott Vowls, 24, a barman, of Bermondsey, south London, who murdered Judy Newell, 35, and her five children by setting fire to their fourth-floor flat, was given six life sentences at the Old Bailey. The Newell family had not been his intended target.

Beggar jailed

Andrew Sophocleous, 28, a beggar who had been under the influence of drink and drugs, was jailed for four years by Southwark Crown Court. He attacked a passer-by in Camden, north London, with a broken bottle after his plea for change was refused.

Show thawed off

A matinée performance of a skating spectacular at the Apollo theatre, Oxford, was cancelled after vandals tampered with ice-making equipment. The 2in-thick ice, which began to melt, was refrozen to allow the evening performance to go ahead.

Potatoes dominate starchy options

By Robin Young

STARCHY foods are the basis of a healthy diet, and though pasta and rice have gained popularity, potatoes are still the favourite British choice, accounting for half the nation's vegetable consumption.

Retailers are obliged to identify the variety of the potatoes they offer for sale. Potatoes are the only fruit or vegetable to which this rule applies, so customers should check each variety's suitability for different purposes, because they vary widely.

Promotions include:

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Asda: Bell's whisky 70cl for £11.99, sparkling Chardonnay 75cl for £3.99, chicken tikka 400g for £1.49.
Budgens: cucumbers 55p each, Scottish smoked salmon 200g for £3.99, Sara Lee chocolate gateau 340g for 99p.
Co-op: Dolmio hot and spicy lasagne 350g for £1.09, Müllerice 200g for 29p, Mellow Birds coffee 100g for £1.49.
Harrods: turkey breast 100g for £1.65, free range loin of pork 1kg for £6.49.
Iceland: turkey cheese burgers 4 for 99p, Mediterranean fish bake 300g for 99p.
Marks & Spencer: frozen Black Forest gateau 540g for £1.99, four hot cross buns 65p, fresh salad 600g for £1.99.
Morrison: fresh ham & mushroom tagliatelli 340g for £1.29, Onken Biopot peach yogurt 500g for 79p.
Safeway: Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon 75cl for £2.29, rump steak 1kg for £7.99, skinned haddock cutlets 1kg for £6.79.
Sainsbury's: assorted biscuits 400g for 69p, scampi in crispy crumb 340g for £2.65, steak cut chips 1816g £1.49.
Somerfield: Jaffa oranges 1kg for 99p, watercress 75g for 75p, traditional sausages 454g for 79p, unsmoked back bacon 510g for £2.49.
Tesco: wholewheat deluxe muesli 1.5kg for £1.99, shepherd's pie 709g for 99p, Chilean white wine 75cl for £2.79.
Waitrose: Empire apples 1.25kg for £1.49, large avocados 75p each, Belgian truffles 200g for £2.95.

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هكذا من الاهل

VAT tribunal refuses to allow fanciers any exemption after ruling that birds do all the work

Pigeon racing is no sport of Queens, says taxman

By Paul Wilkinson

Jack Duckworth of *Coronation Street* fame and the Queen are both enthusiastic pigeon fanciers

BRITISH pigeon fanciers — a group including the Queen — were told yesterday that their passion is not a sport. Because the bird does the work, the VAT-man has decided pigeon racing is merely a hobby and does not qualify for the tax exemption applied to other sports.

The decision, handed down by a Customs and Excise tribunal in Bristol, has staggered representatives of Britain's 80,000 fanciers, who include Jack Duckworth from the television soap *Coronation Street*. They point to a host of other activities that do qualify, including pool, angling and yoga.

John Brown, president of the North of England Homing Union, said: "I don't see how they can regard angling as a sport. You just sit there holding a stick over a bit of water. Pigeon racing is far more demanding. People take it very seriously. We all talk to our birds and a few wives feel their men love their pigeons more than them."

In all 114 activities are exempt from VAT, from aikido to yoga. Greyhound racing is not, but horse racing and motor sports are. Among the less strenuous events regarded as sports for VAT purposes are ballooning, baton-twirling and bowls.

Fanciers meet in two weeks to decide whether they should take their case to the European Court of Justice. They believe they have a good case as pigeon fanciers in Ireland, Holland and Belgium are exempt. The case was brought by the Royal Pigeon Racing Association, whose patron is the Queen, after a change in the law allowed sports club members to claim thousands of pounds in VAT refunds on membership fees, backdated to 1990. British bird fanciers pay about £30,000 VAT on annual subscriptions.

Major Edward Camilleri, the association's general manager, argued that pigeon racing was physical enough to be classed as a sport. Preparation for a race involved feeding, cleaning, driving and lifting birdcages weighing up to 40lb.

In some sports recognised by the VAT commissioners — including gliding and yoga — there was little physical activity. However, a Sports Council representative suggested that sport should "encourage people in acquiring physical skills and undertaking physical effort". The council does not recognise pigeon racing.

The tribunal ruled: "The individual must be taking part in the sport, which we interpret to mean the main sporting activity and not some ancillary activity. We appreciate individuals do take part in some important steps, such as recording the time of arrival, but this is not the main sporting activity, which is the race itself. The activities of the owner are purely incidental."

NEWSTEAM

Flying start: breeders say pigeon racing is as physically demanding as other sports for the rival owners

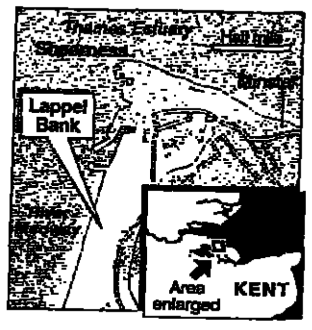
Bill Stokoe, a VAT specialist with the accountants KPMG, said: "The law has gone mad. No official could convince me that fanciers do not regard pigeon racing as a sport."

A racing association spokesman said: "Obviously we are disappointed, particularly when you consider some of the activities that are classed as sports." Mr Brown, 59, a retired council official from Washington, Tyne and Wear, and a pigeon racer for 50 years, said: "To say this is not physical enough to be a sport is ridiculous. At the end of race day I'm a physical wreck. Members can spend six hours a day on their birds. They have to be fed and groomed and their lofts cleaned out. It's very physically demanding."

Leading article, page 19

Gummer wrong to let wetland become car depot

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent



BRITAIN acted illegally in allowing part of a wildlife haven to be concreted over for a car depot, according to a ruling from the European Court of Justice yesterday. The court's Advocate General, whose opinions are usually agreed by the full court, found Britain guilty in what could be a landmark decision.

Lappel Bank on the River Medway near Sheerness in Kent was part of a "wetland of international importance" protected under EU law, and home to rare birds, the Advocate General said. It was wrong for the Government to have excluded half of the bank from the Special Protection Area listing under the European Union's Birds Directive, thereby favouring economic interests over the interests of the environment, he said.

In 1993 John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, decided that some of the bank, which is home to species such as the curlew and grey plover, was needed to support the expansion of Sheerness. Half of the bank has now been turned into a site where cars imported from Japan are stockpiled.

News of the decision came as an alliance of conservation groups unveiled a report claiming that nearly every aspect of the British environment was deteriorating. The second Green Gauge survey of data, published by a coalition of green groups including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the World Wide Fund for Nature, showed that species such as the skylark and song thrush were vanishing because their traditional habitats were being destroyed.

Rural land was being built on at the rate of more than 11,000 hectares a year, while vehicle use continued to rise, contributing to the problem of climate change. Meanwhile, overfishing was leading to the loss of traditional stocks such as haddock and cod.

But it was not all bad news, the report's authors said. The water quality of many rivers had improved within the past ten years, and the level of awareness of transport issues, such as roadbuilding, had increased largely thanks to protests such as that against the Newbury bypass, it was claimed.

The environmentalist Jonathon Porritt told a news conference to launch the report, which the coalition hopes to introduce to schools: "There is no cause for celebration despite a considerably higher level of public awareness and political dialogue about environmental issues. Too many of the indicators are moving in the wrong direction.

"Our environment is getting worse, even the Government's figures say so. There must now be immediate action to stem the tide of environmental degradation in the UK."

Sea eagles approach the test of survival

By Gillian Bowditch

Sea eagle chicks were reintroduced in 1975

CONSERVATIONISTS trying to reintroduce the white-tailed sea eagle to Britain believe that the first chicks reared in the wild will start to produce young of their own this year or next.

There are now ten breeding pairs in Scotland, all of them introduced as chicks from Norway, and the first eggs of the season are beginning to hatch. In the next three months the project team from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds will know whether they have beaten the record of seven chicks successfully reared in one year.

The reintroduction programme began in 1975 when chicks from Norway were released on the island of Rhum: 82 birds were released on the island over 11 years. The second phase of the project started three years ago and so far 26 young birds have been released into the wild at a secret site in the extreme north of Scotland.

A total of 46 chicks have hatched in the wild but none of those chicks, which take at least five years to mature, has raised young of its own, the crucial proof that the Scottish population of sea eagles can support themselves.

Last year a wild-bred bird teamed up with a released sea eagle and ornithologists believe they could breed this year for the first time.

Kevin Duffy, sea eagle project officer with SNH, says he is optimistic that their will be 20 breeding pairs in Scotland by 2003. During the next century Britain's largest bird of prey, with a wingspan of almost 10ft, may be a common sight in the Highlands. The last indigenous female sea eagle was shot on Shetland in 1918.

The story of the sea eagles will be told tonight at 8pm in BBC1's *Operation Survival*, in Scotland only.

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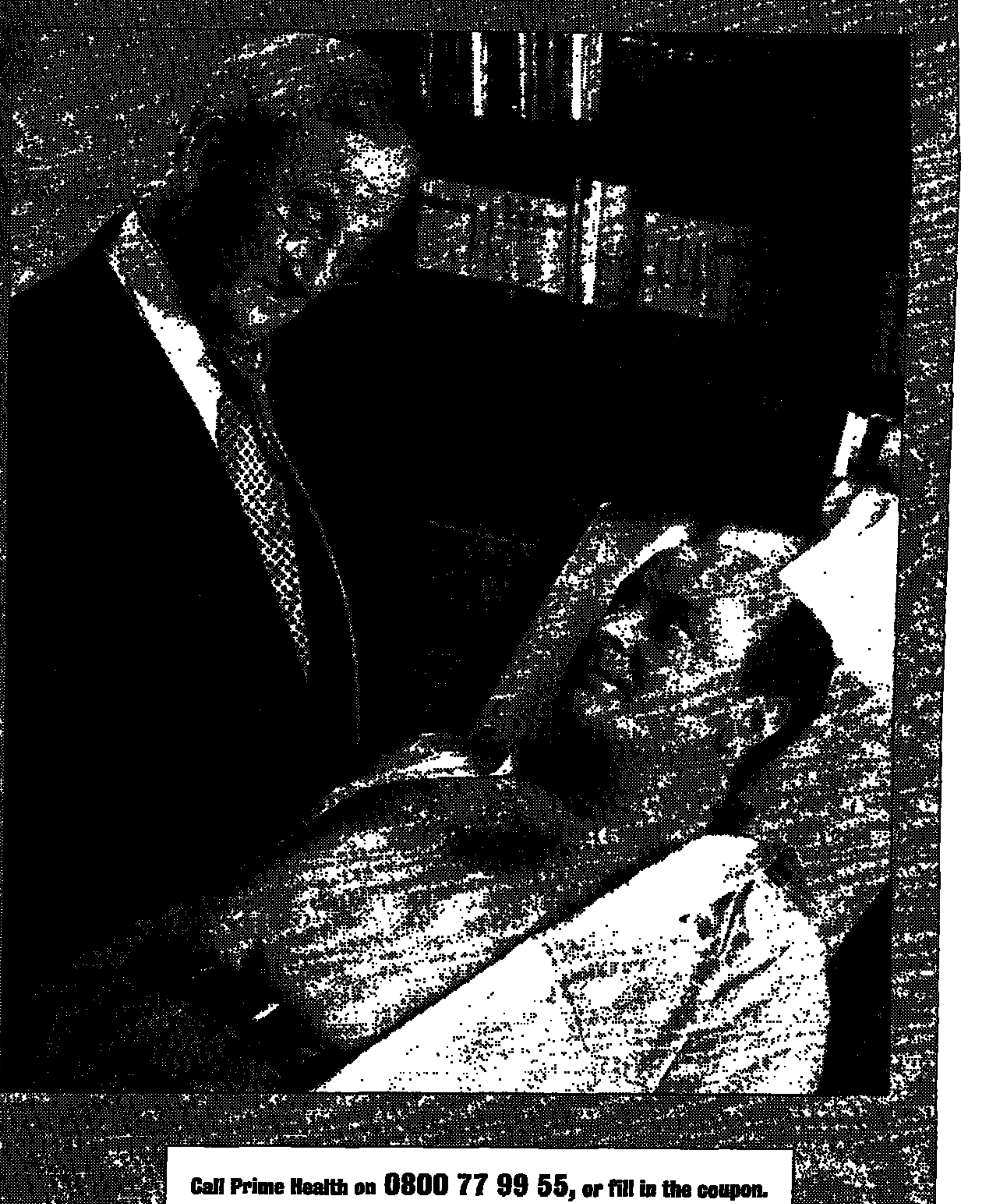

To save money, a lot of people have bought budget health insurance schemes. Inevitably, this has meant compromising on the level of cover. Until now. Because Primecare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually provides comprehensive cover at a budget price.

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Ulster parties are likely to keep their frustration in check

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The only point that really matters about Northern Ireland politics is that all-party talks will start on Monday, June 10, and that Sinn Fein will only be allowed to participate if the IRA restores its ceasefire. Everything else is secondary. Yesterday's statement by the Prime Minister on the method of elections to be held on May 30 is a further manoeuvre to this end.

But then most politics in Northern Ireland is about procedure rather than substance — means rather than ends. The parties jostle for position and the British and Irish Governments make statements aimed to keep various Unionist and nationalist groups on board. It is often a recipe for misunderstanding and recrimination along the way, as has amply been seen this year, with, first, the SDLP, then the Ulster Unionists, and now again the SDLP, feeling aggrieved.

The British Government's calculation is that, having set a firm date for the start of all-party talks, the main constitutional parties will go along with the compromises inevitably involved. Ministers have taken a calculated, and probably correct, gamble that the SDLP will put to one side its resentment at the Government's behaviour and its objections to the creation of the forum.

Relations between the Government and the SDLP are publicly strained at present. It is not just the long-standing tensions between John Major and John Hume. Yesterday Mr Hume did not intervene but sat looking very unhappy. He left Seamus Mallon, his deputy, to press the SDLP's protest in unusually strong terms. This was striking because Mr Mallon and Mr Major have had reasonable working relations.

It is highly unlikely that the SDLP, or Sinn Fein for that matter, will boycott the elections. But their attitude, and that of the Irish Government, will depend on the issues left unresolved yesterday. In particular, the SDLP wants no watering of the proposed ground rules for substantive all-party negotiations, covering structure, format and agenda, which were issued at the end of last week and annoyed the Ulster Unionists.

The SDLP has also pressed the case for referendums in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic on the same day about the repudiation of violence and support for the peace process. There is no agreement on such referendums and the Government paper said it "remains to be convinced that a clear case exists for a referendum in advance of negotiations, in addition to the elective process". Mr Major said in the Commons that a referendum was unlikely rather than likely, even though it had not been formally ruled out.

The fuss over the apparently complicated form of the elections is largely froth. The system is a certainly a hybrid, but its purpose is simple, to ensure that all parties should be represented in the forum. Several representatives from the main parties should be elected under the main method, under which electors cast a single vote for the party of their choice in each of 18 constitueuncies. Representatives from party lists will be allocated in proportion to a party's vote in each of the five member constituencies. In addition, the votes cast for each party will be aggregated across Northern Ireland and the ten most successful parties will, in addition, each secure two elected representatives. This is designed to ensure the election of representatives from smaller groups, mainly the fringe unionist parties with links to the loyalist paramilitaries, who would not otherwise be returned.

None of the electoral detail really matters apart from this last point. Whether you describe it as a necessary compromise, as Mr Major did, or the best dog's breakfast available, as Paddy Ashdown did, is a matter of taste. One of the main parties is probably bound to feel frustrated, though none is likely to risk upsetting the process at this stage.

PETER RIDDELL

Rifkind's sceptical tone too mild for Tory hardliners

By Nicholas Wood and Alice Thomson

RESTIVE Tory Euro-sceptics fired a shot across the Government's bows yesterday, demanding a tougher approach towards the next round of negotaitions on the future of Europe.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, was given a rough ride by many of his own backbenchers as he defended his White Paper setting out the Government's position on the intergovernmental conference starting in Turin next week.

With the sceptics packing the Government benches, Mr Rifkind faced calls to flout the rulings of the European Court of Justice and to overturn the in-built federalist ratchet in the European Union.

Sir Teddy Taylor warned him that the court was intent on nullifing Britain's social chapter opt-out, prompting Mr Rifkind to concede that if the vital interests of nation states were ignored, the EU would become "unworkable".

Although Mr Rifkind countered his critics by promising to work for reform of the court from the inside, to safeguard the national veto and to resist greater powers for Brussels, it was clear that his mildly sceptical tone failed to reassure many Tory hard-liners.

Later, more fundamental differences emerged with the former Chancellor Norman Lamont suggesting that Britain might have to review its membership of the EU. Other leading Tories warned the Government that the time had come to stand up to Franco-German plans for a federal Europe.

Mr Lamont also backed a referendum going wider than a single currency and covering political integration in Europe. The danger was of "civil unrest" unless the slide to a European superstate was stopped.

The message from the sceptics, who had been holding private meetings to plot their tactics for the debate, was that the Government faces more trouble over Europe unless it makes further moves in their direction. But ministers were safe last night after dodging a proper vote on their proposals.

Mr Rifkind played down the significance of the IGC, which is unlikely to be completed before the general election expected for the spring of next year. "The next IGC, unlike the 1985 one or Maastricht, has not been convened to negotiate a big idea," he said. The aim was the more modest one of improving the effectiveness of the EU's machinery before tackling bigger questions such as a single currency, enlargement and Europe's global competitiveness.

Britain's vision of the EU was a "partnership of nation states freely co-operating together in pursuit of their overall collective interests, using the institutions of the EU only where that is clearly necessary".

He promised a detailed paper on the European Court of Justice setting out British proposals to improve the functioning of the court and to change EU law. This had proved to be an "ass" over fishing rights and the working time directive.

But Mr Lanont challenged the foundations of Mr Rifkind's argument, saying that although his White Paper struck the right note it failed the test of halting the federalist ambitions of other member states. "The White Paper takes a minimalist approach: if we do not press hard for Britain's agenda, others might not try to impose an integrationist agenda on us. We must guard against wishful thinking. Whatever we say, or do, others will push for the next great leap forward."

Europe was amassing powers that would soon give it the characteristics of a state. At that point, Britain would have ceased to be a self-governing country.

"We are creating by stealth, a monster machine, remote, insensitive and pushing out a mass of unwanted, often ludicrous paper . . .

"Britain is heading for a clash with Europe. We have different views of Europe. If they cannot be reconciled, then the time will surely come when Britain has to consider much more radical alternatives."

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, teased Mr Rifkind over the Tories' internal divisions while striking a modestly sceptical note himself. The White Paper was riddled with contradictions, notably over the European Court, only some of which was the work of Mr Rifkind, "a repressed supporter of the EU". The absence of discussion on a single currency was a "gaping hole".

Mr Cook declared: "The truth is, like so much else in the White Paper, the negotiating objectives are not drawn up by any calculation of the interests of the 56 million people of Britain, but by very fine calculation of what is necessary to fit the prejudices of a few dozen Tory MPs."

Bonn in bank rift on monetary union

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

A SERIOUS rift on European monetary union has opened up between the German Government and Hans Tietmeyer, the outspoken governor of the Bundesbank.

Dr Tietmeyer described monetary union as "not absolutely necessary in the economic sense", contradicting Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, who has been talking of the "catastrophic consequences" of delaying Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

Until now the Bundesbank and the German Government appeared to have been in pursuit of the same goal: the strictest possible entry criteria for monetary union and guarantees of fiscal discipline after the start-up date in 1999. But the tone has changed over the past few days.

Herr Kohl is now deploying economic arguments in favour of monetary union. At a news conference on Tuesday he said that delaying the start of EMU would lead to a slide of funds into the deutschemark, thus destroying the export industry and causing the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs.

However Dr Tietmeyer, addressing a European policy seminar in Stromberg, said that no one should be under any illusion that EMU would create jobs. If anything, unemployment could deteriorate seriously if monetary union were not properly constructed.

Hybrid poll will be something of an Irish stew

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE formula for the elections to the Northern Ireland peace forum on May 30 is one of the most complicated ever devised and will be fiendishly difficult to organise.

The voters, however, will have a relatively simple task. They will be presented with a ballot paper that has a list of parties but no names of any candidates. In alphabetical order down the left of the paper will be the parties standing in that seat. People will simply vote for the party of their choice. When all the votes are added up, five seats in each of the 18 constituencies will be allocated according to the proportion of votes for each party.

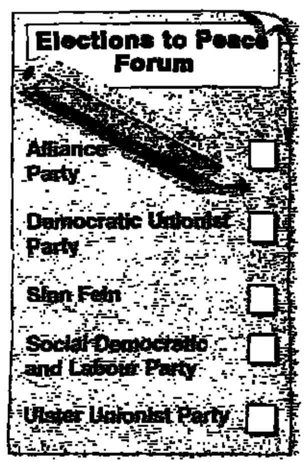
The final details of how the votes will be distributed have yet to be finalised and will only be settled when the legislation comes before the Commons. The most straightforward method would be to round up and round down to the nearest 20 per cent.

For example, if the Ulster Unionists won 60 per cent in Belfast South, the SDLP 19 per cent, and the Democratic Unionists 18 per cent, the Ulster Unionists would get three seats, the SDLP one and the Democratic Unionists one. However, this being Northern Ireland, it may not be as smooth as that. Ministers are looking at the possiblity that parties unable to reach a 20 per cent threshold in any seat may still qualify if they get, for example, 14 or 15 per cent.

In any case the winners would be taken in order from the top of the lists published by each of the parties in advance. The parties' more highly valued candidates will be at the top of the lists in their most promising seats.

This part of the election will produce 90 elected members. The second part, designed to produce a further 20 members, is straightforward and its outcome is wholly predictable. The votes cast across the province in all the constituencies will be aggregated. The idea is purely to determine the ten most successful parties. Each will then get two elected members, again from party lists published in advance.

The aim is purely to ensure that some of the fringe loyalist parties that might not be successful in the wider election at least get on the forum.



Parties but not people go on the ballot paper

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister; debate on the European inter-governmental conference; backbench debate on lottery beneficiaries in west Suffolk.

In the Lords: Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, second reading; Deer (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill, report; Criminal Legal Aid (Scotland) (Prescribed Proceedings) Amendment Regulations; Advice and Assistance (Assistance by way of Representation) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations.

TODAY in the Commons: Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill; Regulation of Diet Industry Bill. The Lords is not sitting.

Blair wary of by-election setback

By James Landale, Political Reporter

TONY BLAIR admitted yesterday that losing the Staffordshire South East by-election would be a severe setback.

Mr Blair, making his first visit to the Midlands constituency in the run-up to the April 11 poll, said it was "extremely important" for Labour to do well. He added: "Things are looking very good. We have had tremendous support from Conservatives from all backgrounds coming over to the Labour Party."

Mr Blair's remarks reflect the tone of Labour's campaign as activists, desperate not to appear overconfident, emphasise that victory is not inevitable. Brian Jenkins, the Labour candidate, said: "This is Tory heartland. It has been a Tory seat forever and I have never said it would be easy."

The Tories are surprisingly upbeat, despite not having won a by-election since 1989, and know that Labour has its work cut out to overturn the 7,192 majority held by Sir David Lightbown, who died last year.

Mr Jenkins, 53, the local council leader, yesterday took Mr Blair to meet a handful of recent converts. At the Highwayman Inn near Tamworth, Mr Blair asked whether they might change their minds under the onslaught of a vigorous Tory campaign.

"The Conservatives will run a very big campaign against the Labour Party," he said. "They will try and terrify people about Labour and all the terrible things we are going to do. How are you going to react to that?"

Bill Jones, 54, a partner in a local public relations firm, said it would be a test of nerves. "It will take a long time for people to be absolutely convinced," he said. "Round here people are Conservative with a small 'c'. They take a lot of convincing."

Blair: warning

Mr Blair's chat with six voters in front of the press had a slightly artificial air to it, as if each of the converts had rehearsed. Mr Jones was concerned about small businesses and welcomed Labour's plans to give firms a legal right to interest on late payments.

Susan Lees, 38, a mature law student and single parent, said the Government was out of touch. "They have had their time and now they are living on borrowed time."

Raymond Waspe, 56, a local businessman, said he had voted Tory for 30 years but was now disillusioned. "I believe this Government has totally lost its way. They lack any new ideas."

A beaming Mr Blair welcomed their views but warned them that Labour could not wave a magic wand and solve all the country's ills.

Later, in Tamworth, Jimmy James, 44, the Tory candidate, welcomed Mr Blair's visit but added: "He won't have answered questions for local businessmen on the minimum wage, social chapter and trade union influence."

Rebellion danger subsides

MINISTERS appear to have headed off a damaging Tory rebellion on divorce reform.

Tory MPs were threatening to revolt over government plans to remove from the Family Law Bill an amendment providing for pension rights to be shared between divorced couples. Now the Government is expected to promise a separate Bill on pension splitting in the autumn in return for the rebels' agreement on removing the amendment.

The amendment was inserted in the Bill after a government defeat in the Lords. Roger Freeman, the Public Services Minister is expected to announce the new move when he opens the Second Reading of the Bill in the Commons on Monday.

Labour considers restoring free eye tests for elderly

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

LABOUR is considering making a commitment to bring back free eye tests for nine million pensioners.

The proposal, which would cost about £20 million a year to implement, follows growing concern that serious eye diseases such as glaucoma are being missed because the elderly are not having regular eye tests. But it falls far short of Labour's commitment at the 1992 election to reinstate free eye tests and dental checks for everyone, which were abolished in 1989.

Labour's aim would be to bring eye tests more in line with prescription charges, from which the over-65s are exempt. Party sources say that there is little logic in allowing pensioners free prescriptions but forcing them to spend £13 to £14 on eye tests. They argue that restoring free eye tests for the elderly would be a vote-winner yet pledge the party to mimimal extra spending.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, has told his colleagues that he will not sanction any spending commitments unless they are paid for by savings elsewhere. It is also unlikely that Labour will match the Tories' pledge to increase NHS spending in real terms every year.

Members of Labour's health team point to the £110 million that will be saved by ending tax relief from private health insurance for the elderly. They also argue that money could be found from efficiency savings in management and administration.

Labour has no plans to restore free dental checks or to restore free eye tests for everyone. At present 40 per cent of the population are exempt from eye test charges including the under-16s, those on income support and family credit and glaucoma sufferers.

Labour's health team is now having discussions with the medical profession and the Association of Optometrists, over precise details of the plan. The optometrists argue that the cost of restoring free eyesight tests for the elderly would be more than offset by long-term savings in treatment costs.

This is neither the time nor the place to buy a PEP.

هكذا من الاصل

Exercises raise spectre of humiliation for China, say expelled Communist activists

'Black Hands' of Tiananmen study poll preparations

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

DISSIDENTS

TWO men condemned by Peking as "Black Hands" behind the Tiananmen Square uprising were in Taipei yesterday watching Taiwan prepare for tomorrow's presidential elections.

Liu Binyan, 71, and Su Shaozhi, 65, were long-time party members who were expelled for advocating democratic reforms which threatened party rule. They are in Taipei with a group of democratic activists which includes Chai Ling, the "commander in chief" during the six weeks of demonstrations in the spring of 1989, and Li Lu, her deputy commander. Everyone in the delegation lives abroad.

Mr Liu was for 30 years China's most famous investigative journalist, whose readers looked to him for exposés of official corruption and injustice. He was twice ejected from the party and spent many years in detention until he left China in 1987.

He is regarded by the party as the single most important influence on the rebellious students because of his years of inner-party democratic activism. Now based near Princeton University in New Jersey, his courage despite persecution accounts for his continued inspiration to Chinese democrats.

"What Peking fears here is independence," Mr Liu said. "If Taiwan became a real country it would be an obvious, concrete loss by the party, something they couldn't hide or explain away."

Most Chinese know nothing about what happens in Taiwan, and they were so brainwashed for years that names like Chiang Kai-shek and Kuomintang still make them anxious. There is also a kind of ignorant superficial nationalism in China, which has nothing to do with making the country better. Its believers insist that Taiwan, like Tibet, must not be torn from China.

Mr Liu favours an eventual link between Taiwan and the mainland. "People here have an island mentality — rather narrow. They would benefit from some sort of relationship with China, but with a democratic one. That might be 20 to 40 years away. Unification of any kind now would only strengthen the regime."

Su Shaozhi, once a leading party intellectual, was, until his dismissal in 1987, the director of the State Council's Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought Institute, the party's top think-tank. The party expelled him for pressing for ideological reform in the direction of Western-style democracy. He escaped, and now lives near Mr Liu.

"I just telephoned a friend in Peking," he said yesterday, "and asked him what the party really feared in Taiwan. He said it was Mr De." Mr De was the code word for Democracy used in 1919 by university students demanding that to save itself from imperialism, China needed democracy.

"These military exercises are intended to horrify Taiwan," Mr Su said. "It's what collapsing totalitarian governments tend to do ... At first, the party got a lot of support for this action near Taiwan because many Chinese, including democrats in the exile community, believe in reunification more than they believe in democracy."

According to Mr Su, the leaders made two mistakes. "Taiwan has not surrendered and the US came to help. They never expected [President] Clinton to do something so decisive. So they have a problem now: a rebellious province with an army."

Mr Su thinks that Peking's failure to intimidate Taiwan has already had serious effects for the regime. "They have lost the hearts of the people of Taiwan; I have friends in Taiwan who were in favour of some sort of reunification. Not any more. And just as in Tiananmen, they have isolated China again, alienating their friends in the West and causing fear of Chinese hegemony all over East and South-East Asia."

Letters, page 19

A Taiwanese soldier mans a 50mm machinegun on an American-made tank near Taipei yesterday

Carrot and stick tactics fail to frighten voters

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN TAIPEI

ELECTIONS

WITH Taiwanese frantically campaigning for presidential elections and blithely ignoring Peking's threats, the mainland must reassess its information-gathering on the island, the Foreign Minister of Taiwan said yesterday.

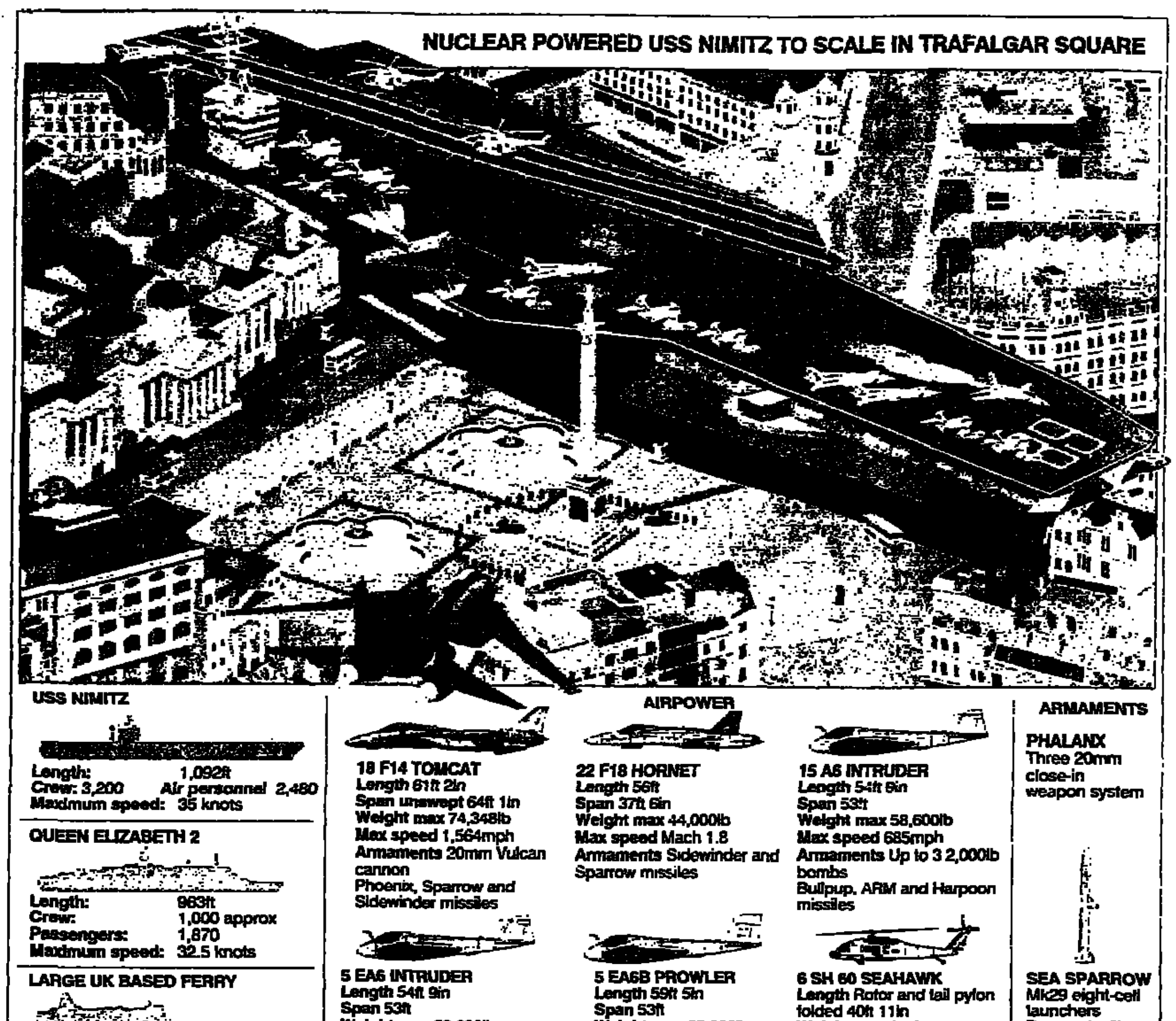
Fredrick Chien said that the clamour for democracy and vigorous media coverage of a rapidly changing society had led Communist Party leaders to make "a big, big mistake" in their assessment of the effect of their attempts at intimidation. They had resorted to carrot and stick tactics.

Yesterday the carrot was again in evidence when Peking let it be known that it would accept anyone the Taiwanese chose as their president. "They don't want to eliminate the possibility of repairing the damage," Mr Chien said. "They are tightening the noose and then loosening it again." He added that Peking would not accept the new president as a head of state: "They think that this is a local election."

It appears that the Chinese strategy of either frightening the Government into cancelling the elections or depressing the percentage of the vote for President Lee Teng-hui has backfired.

The indications are that it will boost the level of support for Taiwan's first native-born president.

NUCLEAR POWERED USS NIMITZ TO SCALE IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE



USS NIMITZ

Length: 1,092ft
Crew: 3,200 Air personnel 2,480
Maximum speed: 35 knots

QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

Length: 963ft
Crew: 1,000 approx
Passengers: 1,870
Maximum speed: 32.5 knots

LARGE UK BASED FERRY

Length: 580ft
Crew: 215
Passengers: 2,500
Maximum speed: 22 knots

AIRPOWER

18 F14 TOMCAT
Length 61ft 2in
Span unswept 64ft 1in
Weight max 74,348lb
Max speed 1,564mph
Armaments 20mm Vulcan cannon
Phoenix, Sparrow and Sidewinder missiles

22 F18 HORNET
Length 56ft
Span 37ft 6in
Weight max 44,000lb
Max speed Mach 1.8
Armaments Sidewinder and Sparrow missiles

15 A6 INTRUDER
Length 54ft 9in
Span 53ft
Weight max 58,600lb
Max speed 685mph
Armaments Up to 3 2,000lb bombs
Bullpup, ARM and Harpoon missiles

5 EA6 INTRUDER
Length 54ft 9in
Span 53ft
Weight max 58,600lb
Max speed 685mph
Armaments 3 2,000lb bombs
Bullpup, ARM and Harpoon missiles

5 EA6B PROWLER
Length 59ft 5in
Span 53ft
Weight max 65,000lb
Max speed 651mph
Armament None

6 SH 60 SEAHAWK
Length Rotor and tail pylon folded 40ft 11in
Weight max 21,884lb
Max speed 145mph
Armaments 2 Mk 46 torpedoes

ARMAMENTS

PHALANX
Three 20mm close-in weapon system

SEA SPARROW
Mk29 eight-cell launchers
Range: 14.6km
Speed: Mach 2.5
Warhead: 39kg continuous rod

Graphic: Geoffrey Sims, John Lawson, David Hart, Tony Garrett

A floating piece of America on the front line

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

THE *USS Nimitz*, which is expected to arrive near the Taiwan Strait today, is part of the premier fleet of American aircraft carriers which act as central hubs for the forward presence of the United States Navy.

Deployed for the first time in May, 1975, she is one of seven carriers in the Nimitz class, which are powered by two nuclear reactors and four geared steam turbines. With a beam of 252ft, they are the largest vessels in the American fleet, capable of supporting and operating as many as 85 aircraft against airborne, floating or shore targets.

NIMITZ

Supporting a ship's company of 3,200 and an air wing of as many as 2,480, *Nimitz* can carry a full load of up to 97,000 tons. In effect, she is a floating piece of America and has numerous facilities, including a chapel, butcher, barber, hospital, fire station, chilled drinking water plant, bars, games rooms, and a television at every corner.

Capable of spending 90 days at sea, the vessel can distil 100,000 gallons of fresh water a day and provides for the needs of everyone, from the lowest rating to the commander. The question of nuclear weapons being aboard is one the Pentagon is quick to avoid.

Peking condemns US weapons deal

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA yesterday attacked new American arms sales to Taiwan and denounced a resolution by the US Congress to help to defend the Nationalists. The condemnation came as Peking continued its military exercises just two days before Taiwan's first direct presidential elections tomorrow.

The latest broadside by Shen Guofang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, came after Washington said it had approved the sale of arms, including Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. A Taiwan request for diesel-powered submarines was turned down.

Mr Shen criticised the House of Representatives, which this week passed a non-binding resolution calling for America to defend Taiwan if China launched an attack. The Senate is expected to support a similar resolution. Mr Shen described the resolution as "detestable" and said it was an attempt to *obstruct the reunification of China and* Taiwan.

He noted that American arms sales to Taiwan had intensified tension in the region and had complicated the situation.

Mr Shen said the US bore "unshakeable responsibility for exacerbating tension". He claimed that Washington was always "scolding" those who engaged in weapons proliferation so it was very irresponsible of the United States to "sell advanced weapons to a sensitive area at a sensitive time".

ARMS SALES

Yesterday the *USS Nimitz* aircraft carrier was steaming into the South China Sea towards waters off Taiwan. It forms part of an American naval task force, the largest Washington has assembled in the region since the Vietnam War, in response to China's show of muscle in the Taiwan Strait.

Despite Mr Shen's words, there are signs that the United States and China mean to keep high-level contacts alive in various areas.

There are plans for Chi Haotian, the Defence Minister, who has recently revived the slogan of the need to "liberate" Taiwan, to visit America next month, and Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, is due to confer with Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, in The Hague on April 21.

☐ **Taipei:** *A 41,266-tonne container ship* rammed into a naval supply ship at Hsinpin Pier in south Taiwan's Kaohsiung Harbour yesterday, almost slicing it in half. No one was injured in the accident.

Military supply ships have been criss-crossing Kaohsiung harbour since China started its war games in the Taiwan Strait. Harbour officials said the supply ships were loading food and weapons destined for Taiwanese islands close to the coast of China. *(AFP)*

Satellite launch boosts Indian defence

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

INDIA yesterday successfully carried out the final developmental launch of its home-made PSLV rocket, carrying a satellite into orbit and placing South Asia's superpower in the top league of nations engaged in advanced space technology.

It was a milestone for India, marking the end of the 4,150 million rupee (£78 million) development programme of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and clearing the way for research into a new generation of rockets. It puts India in a position to compete in the lucrative business of launching satellites for other countries.

Scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation cheered as the 280-tonne launch vehicle blasted off flawlessly from the Sriharikota range on the east coast north of Madras. India has already launched nine satellites and is planning to launch another eight in the next four years.

Such advances make neighbouring Pakistan nervous and are fuelling fears of an arms race between the two nuclear powers.

The decision by the United States to go ahead with the sale to Pakistan, approved last year, of $368 million (£241 million) of arms sales, including aircraft and missiles, will intensify these fears. There had been speculation that the transfer would be postponed after reports that China had sold nuclear technology to Islamabad, violating American non-proliferation laws. India lobbied in Washington against the sales.

India's armed forces are seeking substantially increased defence expenditure to modernise and develop indigenous capability. Nearly two months ago India test-fired a long-range version of its Prithvi surface-to-surface missile, which is capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The Defence Ministry last year embarked on a ten-year plan to reduce dependence on foreign suppliers.

The Government recently unveiled Arjun, a 58-tonne, $300 million Indian-built battle tank to replace Russian-made T72s. It will go into *production next year. India* has also produced a prototype of a light combat aircraft, which will eventually replace Russian-built MiG21s.

The new American arms deliveries to Pakistan may represent a diplomatic and psychological victory for Islamabad, but they leave the Islamic state overwhelmingly outclassed by its neighbour in conventional defence strength.

Why Mrs Mandela must be tolerated

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

AFTER the wounding Mandela divorce, the real question is what happens to Winnie Mandela *now?* The case has severely damaged whatever hopes she may have had of inheriting President Mandela's political mantle.

The revelation of the terrible Calvary that Mrs Mandela inflicted upon her husband, the African National Congress's chief icon, is not softened by her inability to contest the allegations against her or by her husband's damning judgment that while she suffered under apartheid, "many other women suffered far more". Until now, this has been her alibi for everything.

Equally, Mrs Mandela's last-minute attempt to turn the case into a crusade for women's rights sits ill with her financial dependence upon her husband, not to mention her conviction for kidnapping.

Mrs Mandela's financial prospects also appear dim. It emerges that she has had something like £500,000 from her husband since 1990 — virtually all of it the fruit of donations from well-wishers — but also that she is going through money as fast as deposed royals in Britain.

She derives a monthly income of £2,700 from investments but her expenditure is seven times that. Although Mr Mandela will doubtless make her a generous settlement, nobody expects it to be long before she has spent whatever he gives her.

As it is, only repeated interventions by her husband have got her off the hook on the numerous occasions when she has been hauled before the courts for baulking over debts. Future brushes with the law seem certain and she is less likely to be rescued.

Mrs Mandela is far from finished, however. She is a prominent member of the ANC's National Executive Committee and President of the ANC Women's League. She has used that position to embarrass the movement by taking up populist causes against the leadership and will doubtless now feel more free to do so.

These positions give her sufficient political leverage for it to be very imprudent for ANC politicians to risk taking her on. Those who did so over the affair of the murdered Stompie Moeketsi have all suffered and Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President, for example, takes great care to stay on the right side of her.

Moreover, the ANC seems unwilling to disown her, not only because it is half afraid of her but because she is, finally, theirs and her name and dramatic figure still strike deep chords with those who remember her from the brave days of the struggle.

Mrs Mandela: still has support

'Mother of Nation' accused of running criminal gang

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

HUMILIATED by courtroom details about her infidelity and spendthrift ways, Winnie Mandela's woes continue to pile up with her now accused of running a criminal syndicate.

During hearings at the Supreme Court in Pretoria, Dougie Holthausen, a retired policeman, told how Mrs Mandela was in charge of a gang of criminals who committed robberies on her orders. Giving evidence at the trial of Colonel Eugene de Kock, a former police commander who is facing 121 charges of murder and fraud, Mr Holthausen told how the President's former wife was to have accompanied four would-be robbers who were ambushed and killed by police in 1992. He said she withdrew from the trip at the last minute. Mr Holthausen named Tiisetso Leballo, Mrs Mandela's former driver, as a fifth member of the team who escaped the attack only to be killed later, allegedly on the orders of Colonel de Kock.

During the late 1980s Mrs Mandela, a convicted kidnapper still held in high regard by many South Africans as the "Mother of the Nation", surrounded herself with young thugs in the Mandela United Football Club. Jerry Richardson, the "coach", was sentenced to hang for the murder of Stompie Moeketsi, 14, who had earlier been taken to her home.

President Mandela said during divorce proceedings this week that he could expose "more serious" dirty linen than the one act of adultery mentioned. Within hours two of her bodyguards appeared in a court on murder and attempted murder charges.

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Hezbollah threat prompts alert on Lebanon border

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A STATE of alert was declared yesterday in Jewish towns and settlements along the border with Lebanon as pro-Iranian guerrilla leaders threatened rocket attacks in retaliation for Israel's promised tough response to the killing of six Israeli soldiers this month.

Wednesday's renewal by Hezbollah of suicide bombing, which originated in response to Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, has left the situation more tense than at any time since July 1993, when Israel's Operation Accountability killed 130 people and turned nearly 250,000 Lebanese civilians into refugees as they fled north.

Overshadowed by the recent spate of Islamic suicide bombings against civilian targets inside Israel and the resulting Sharm el Sheikh anti-terrorism summit, the war of attrition being fought against Israel under Syrian eyes in occupied southern Lebanon is threatening the Middle East peace process from a different, but equally dangerous, perspective.

In addition to the normal complications which have made Lebanon a quagmire for Israeli forces in the past, the latest crisis is all the more explosive because it comes just two months before an Israeli election in which security is the key issue, and while Washington is trying to bind the fragile 29-nation coalition formed at Sharm el Sheikh with a follow-up meeting in the United States.

Even before a 26-year-old bomber blew himself up on Wednesday after giving the passing Israeli convoy a provocative salute from the roadside, Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, was under heavy domestic pressure to defy American calls for restraint and to improve his image by ordering widescale retaliation.

"The Prime Minister knows that Hezbollah are deliberately trying to provoke a heavy-handed reaction, but there comes a point in an election campaign where he has to respect the views of his electorate," one Israeli official said. "It is not so much revenge that is being demanded as action to preserve the security of our soldiers in Lebanon."

While the world has grown bored with Lebanon, the last active Arab-Israeli warfront, every Israeli appears to have a relative or friend serving inside the nine-mile deep buffer zone. Every time that Israel Radio begins playing sombre music and rumours of a new attack circulate, the anxiety among the Jews is palpable.

Ali Qashmar, 20, the suicide bomber whose attack killed an Israeli officer this week

Mr Peres made clear yesterday that Israel would respond to the latest attacks at a time and a place of its own choosing. Binyamin ben-Eliezer, one of his leading campaign aides, was less guarded. "It cannot be 'bang' and we are done. We must hit a bull's-eye," he said, without elaborating.

An editorial in the right-wing *Jerusalem Post* demonstrated the intensity of pressure Mr Peres is facing from his main opponents, the right-wing Likud, to throw recent restraint to the wind.

"To talk about a political solution in Lebanon is fine. All wars end with a political solution. But to accommodate Syrian sensibilities and American daydreams and presidential elections by tying the hands of the Israeli Army is unacceptable," the paper argued.

"All Israelis hope that Peres's vision of peace with the Arab world will materialise before 2000. But they do not relish having Israeli soldiers serve as sitting ducks until that time."

The Prime Minister, whose poll standing was badly damaged by the recent suicide bombings in Israel, said: "We will do everything required to relate to the situation as it exists in the field."

However, as the 1978 Operation Litani demonstrated, and the 1982 invasion underlined at great human cost, a ground push deep into Lebanon or even as far as Beirut was not capable of ending terrorist attacks across Israel's northern border.

According to Israeli defence sources, current ideas range from attacking guerrilla headquarters in Beirut to air raids against Iran, the main supplier of Hezbollah finance and arms.

"We keep our right to retaliate," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah chief, said at a Beirut news conference yesterday. "The only way not to touch their [Israeli] settlements is not touching our civilians and people."

A wine-keeper shows off a bottle of Georgian wine from Stalin's 450-bottle collection of rare European and local vintages, which was unearthed from a cellar in Tbilisi more than four decades after the Soviet dictator's death. Most Russians

Stalin's cellar opened

would probably shudder at the thought of unearthing the hidden remains of Stalin's cellar (Richard Beeston writes). However, the secret is not a grisly legacy of his brutal rule, but a reminder that the tyrant was also a wine lover.

The collection will be put on display in a museum in the Georgian capital. Its discovery could help the rapid rehabilitation of Stalin both in his native Georgia, where many consider him a national hero, and in Russia, where resurgent Communists recently celebrated his birthday and praised his achievements.

Yeltsin hardens Russian line on Nato

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday warned Javier Solana, the visiting Nato Secretary-General, that Russia would take a tough line against the alliance for proposing to extend membership to former Soviet bloc countries.

Mr Yeltsin told Señor Solana that Yevgeni Primakov, the newly appointed Foreign Minister, had not been forceful enough in stating Russia's strong objections to Nato expansion.

"They say he [Primakov] talked to you too mildly so I will be tougher than him in making our position clear," said the President, who once issued a warning that Nato expansion would ignite "the flame of war" across Europe.

Señor Solana would not say after the meeting how forceful the Russian leader had been, but said that the two sides had restated their opposing views on the subject.

"The enlargement of Nato was a decision taken in 1994," he said, referring to the applications made by 12 East and Central European states to join the 16-nation alliance. "We are working steadily towards it and we are not going to change course."

Nato has been working hard to assure the Russians that they will not be excluded from a central role in shaping European security and that the alliance's expansion into Eastern Europe does not represent a threat against Russian interests.

The Russians have signed up to Nato's Partnership for Peace programme and after some hesitation also sent peacekeeping troops to serve alongside Nato forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina. However, with less than three months to go before presidential elections and with the Communists leading in the polls, Mr Yeltsin must be seen to be taking a firm line with Nato, which is regarded with great suspicion by most Russians.

Despite the West's solid support for Mr Yeltsin's re-election campaign, Washington and its allies have made clear that they are not willing to compromise on Nato.

WORLD SUMMARY

Briton is seized in Somalia

New York: An unidentified Briton was among five United Nations aid officials abducted in Somalia over an alleged dispute with a local driver (James Bone writes).

The Briton, an employee of the UN Children's Fund, was seized along with colleagues from America, India, Sudan and Nepal when they arrived at Mogadishu airport on a humanitarian mission.

UN sources said the five appeared to have been kidnapped by a driver who had a grievance against Unicef because it had stopped renting his vehicle last year.

Papandreou leaves hospital

Athens: Andreas Papandreou, 77, the former Greek Prime Minister who hovered near death for four months in hospital, defied all odds and returned home yesterday with his young wife Mimi beside him. Boisterous supporters swamped the car of the founder of the Pasok Socialist Party, cheering and throwing flowers. He waved feebly while holding on to life support tubes that will be hooked into machines at home. *(Reuter)*

Aznar secures alliance deal

José María Aznar, Spain's Prime Minister-in-waiting, whose Popular Party (PP) won recent elections, but without a majority sufficient to form a Government, has ratified his first pact with prospective allies (Tunku Varadarajan writes). Convergence and Union, the Catalan nationalists, has agreed to the PP appointing the parliamentary Speakers in return for seats on important committees.

Bougainville truce ends

Port Moresby: Papua New Guinea ordered its troops back into battle against secessionists in Bougainville after ending a ceasefire in operation since September 1994. The Bougainville Revolutionary Army has waged a conflict in the mineral-rich island province for about seven years over sharing profits from a rich copper mine. *(Reuter)*

Paradise lost

Manila: Shangri-La, an international luxury hotel chain, is to fight a court ruling that gave a small restaurant near Manila exclusive rights to the fabled name because it registered it first. *(AP)*

Neo-Nazi leads police to fifth victim's grave

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

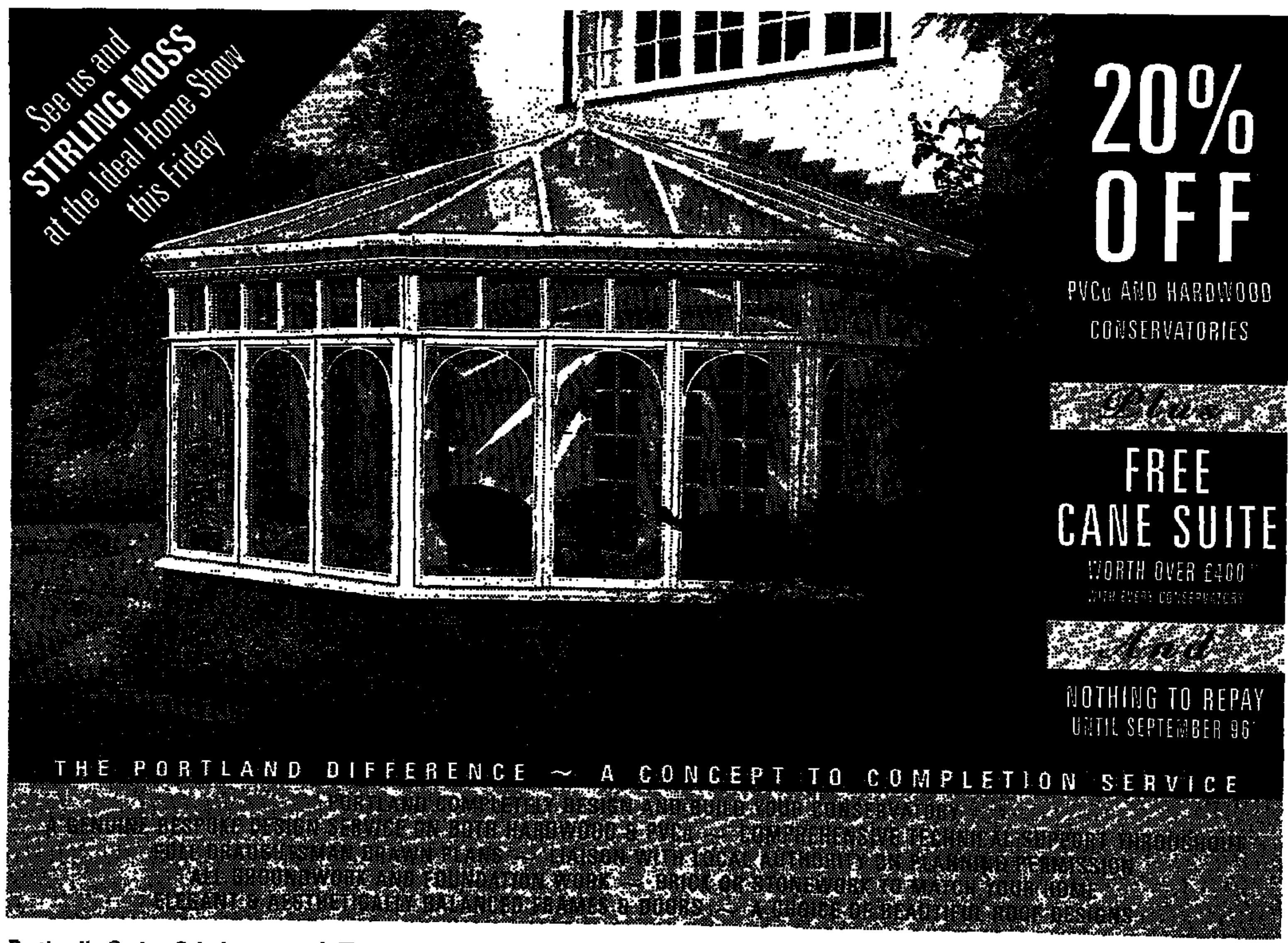
HANDCUFFED and surrounded by a dozen policemen, a 27-year-old neo-Nazi serial killer yesterday led the state prosecutor to the secret grave of his fifth victim.

One of the victims of Thomas L — German law forbids the printing of his full name until the trial begins — was a 23-year-old woman who was stabbed 91 times for wearing a "Nazis Out" badge. The Essen prosecutor confirmed that the man had confessed to five killings. He was arrested after the shooting of a neo-Nazi defector.

In Thomas L's flat police found a fully-armed rocket launcher, pistols, ammunition and the automatic rifle used to kill the defector.

Thomas L claims that he was carrying out orders transmitted by Odin, the Germanic god of war.

☐ **Four held:** Four far-Right extremists were arrested yesterday in Magdeburg on suspicion of shooting a Sudanese man in the face.



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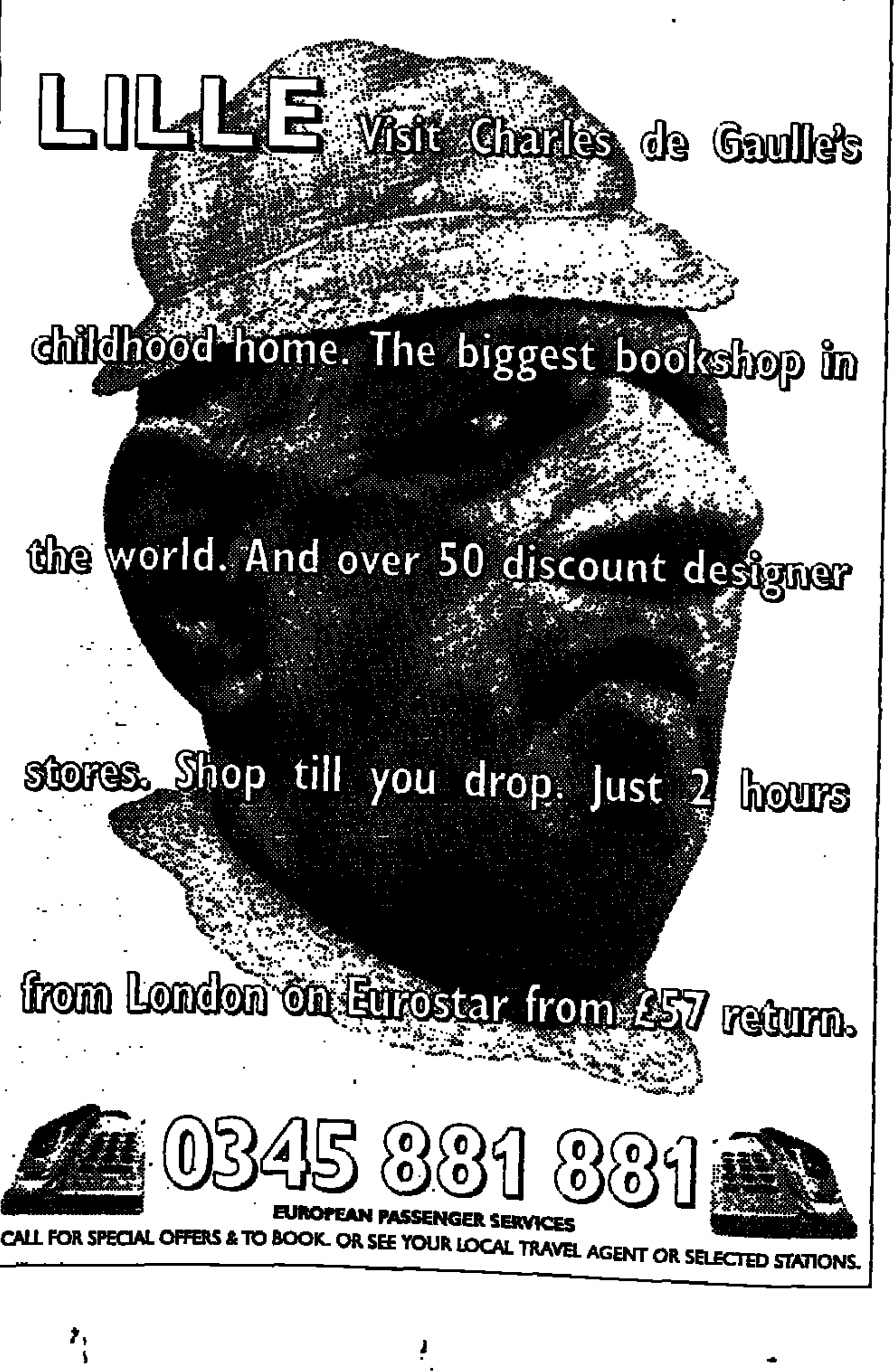

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US needs missile defence system, say Republicans

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ACCUSING President Clinton of neglecting America's security, Bob Dole and Newt Gingrich yesterday unveiled legislation to develop and deploy by 2003 a national defence against rogue states' ballistic missiles.

"Right now the United States has no defence, and I repeat no defence, against ballistic missiles, and if it's left up to the Clinton Administration it will stay that way," said Mr Dole, the Senate leader who will be Mr Clinton's opponent in November's presidential election.

Mr Clinton "would rather give the money away on foreign aid than use the money to defend America and that's a very big difference in our two views", Mr Gingrich, the House Speaker, said.

The two Republicans were clearly seeking electoral advantage, but they were also addressing the real threat that certain renegade Third World nations may soon pose as they acquire weapons of mass destruction and advanced missile technology.

In Fulton, Missouri, earlier this month Baroness Thatcher urged the West to develop anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defences, calling the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons to countries like Iraq, Iran, Syria and Libya "the single most awesome threat of modern times".

Ronald Reagan, the former President, first floated the idea of building an impenetrable space-based shield to protect America from nuclear attack in 1993 when he launched the Strategic Defence Initiative, or "star wars", programme.

More than $30 billion (£19 billion) was spent on research over the following decade, but before a single new missile defence weapon was deployed the Soviet Union collapsed and the incoming Clinton Administration killed the programme.

The new Administration began working instead on a more modest ground-based defence system. This has not been a priority partly because it does not consider the threat imminent, partly because of financial constraints, and partly because the deployment of such defences is banned by the 1972 ABM treaty with the former Soviet Union.

However, the Defend America Act that the two Republican leaders unveiled yesterday would mandate "the deployment by the end of 2003 of a national missile defence system capable of providing a highly effective defence of US territory against limited, unauthorised or accidental ballistic missle attacks".

The legislation instructs the Defence Secretary to produce cost estimates and a plan for deploying the system within a year. The interceptor missiles could be ground-based, sea-based or space-based, and space-based sensors known as "Brilliant Eyes" would detect incoming ballistic missiles.

The Bill urges the President to enter negotiations with Moscow to amend the ABM treaty to permit the deployment of such defences, but suggests the United States should abrogate the treaty if those negotiations had not succeeded within one year.

The ABM treaty was designed to deter nuclear attacks by upholding the principle of mutually assured destruction, but the Bill argues that "the United States and Russia should welcome the opportunity to reduce reliance on threats of nuclear retaliation as the sole basis of stability".

Mr Clinton would probably veto the Bill, but in doing so would expose himself to further Republican attacks on an issue, national defence, that has long been considered a Democratic weak point.

Green crusader threatens President

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

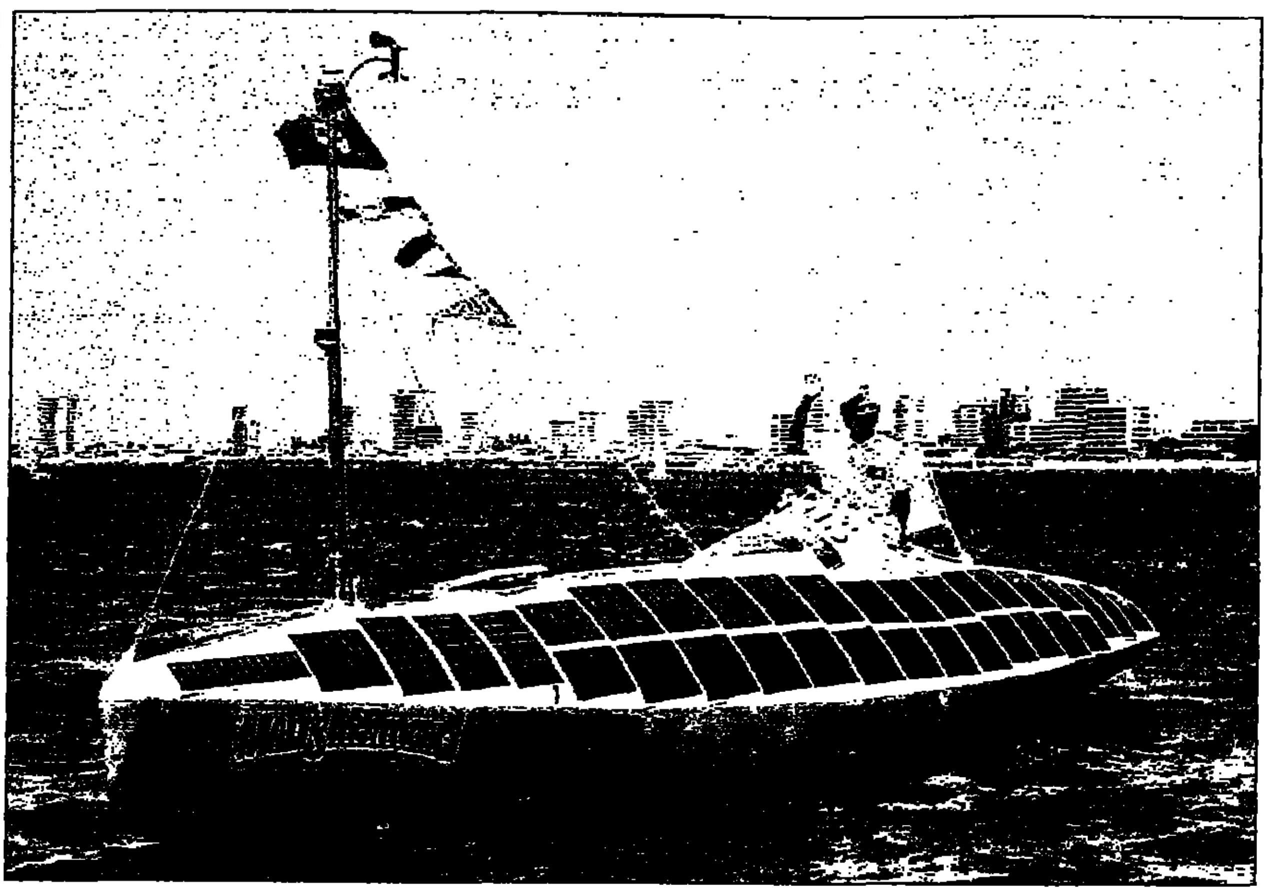
BOB DOLE begins campaigning in California today, but there is another candidate in next Tuesday's Golden State primaries the White House fears more.

His name is Ralph Nader, a veteran crusader for consumer rights. Though Mr Nader will be nominated for President by California's tiny Green Party, this high-profile 62-year-old activist could siphon enough votes from Mr Clinton to make Mr Dole squeak home in the one state the President must win to retain the Oval Office.

Indeed Mr Nader represents such a serious potential threat to Mr Clinton's re-election hopes that Democratic heavyweights have been privately begging him to reconsider, but to no avail. Mr Nader is as disgusted with Mr Clinton as he is with the Republicans. "I'm getting calls from members of Congress and all sorts of emissaries, but I'm in this campaign to stay," he insists.

Nader: could siphon votes from Clinton

California is so important to Mr Clinton that he has visited it 23 times since taking office, channelled huge sums of federal money its way, and appointed Californians to top administration jobs. Having irretrievably lost much of the South and West he cannot be re-elected without California's 54 electoral college votes — a fifth of the required total — and has already begun advertising there.



Kenichi Horie, a Japanese explorer, sets out from Salinas in Ecuador in his solar-powered boat made out of 27,000 recycled aluminium beer cans. He plans to sail to Japan in what he hopes will be the world's first solar-powered crossing of the Pacific Ocean (Giles

Warm beer cans sail west

Whittell writes). Equipped with a tiny fridge and 120 cans of beer (one for each day at sea), Mr Horie set off on the 10,000-mile voyage. The 31ft *Malt's Mermaid* has 130sq ft of solar cells. On a good day they generate 1.5 kilowatts of electricity, topping up two rechargeable nickel-hydrogen batteries. One battery drives the boat's motor, the other the fridge, a radio, the lighting and a video recorder. Mr Horie crossed the western Pacific from Hawaii to Japan in 1985. He has also sailed twice round the world in more conventional craft and crossed the Pacific in the world's shortest ocean-going sailing vessel, measuring 9ft 2in.

Hostage freed by car crash

FROM REUTER
IN HONG KONG

A TRAFFIC accident proved lucky for a Hong Kong kidnap victim — she was spotted in the boot of a stolen taxi after the locked lid opened in the impact of the collision.

The accident helped to save 35-year-old travel agent Yeung Chai-chi who had been abducted by two kidnappers, the *Apple Daily* and other newspapers said yesterday.

The taxi came to a halt when it hit a container lorry. The lorry driver spotted a wriggling hand and then saw a woman in a pink dress with her head masked in tights, and her arms and legs bound with adhesive tape.

He reported it to police, who sent a helicopter team to chase the car and rescue her. Police detained one suspect.

Wary Clinton faces pressure to keep soldiers in Bosnia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON, having promised Republicans that he would withdraw American troops from Bosnia-Herzegovina by the end of the year, is facing increasing pressure from international officials to maintain a force in the Balkans after the deadline is past.

The Administration is now searching for a solution that will appease the factions on the ground and international negotiators while at the same time ensuring that Mr Clinton does not lose political capital to Congress before the presidential elections in November.

At the insistence of the United States, the Nato implementation force of 60,000 peacekeepers is scheduled to leave the region by the end of the year. The White House insisted yesterday that all 20,000 American soldiers would depart within nine months. Britain and France have said that once America leaves they will follow suit. However, Carl Bildt, the international civilian co-ordinator for the Dayton peace accord, has said it is critical that a peacekeeping force remain in Bosnia after the departure of Ifor, the multinational Nato force.

"Refugee return is a two-year plan. Reconstruction will take much longer than one year," he said. "Almost everything depends on a feeling of overall security for which some kind of military presence will be required."

At the same time, a Pentagon intelligence report released this week said that the prospects for peace were dim and added that without economic aid and a political renaissance the country was likely to slide back into conflict as soon as Nato withdrew.

Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and other allied foreign ministers are expected to make a decision over Bosnia when they meet in Berlin in June.

☐ **Envoy stoned:** Rebel Serbs shouted abuse at Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, and stoned her motorcade when she visited Vukovar which is being returned to Croatian rule after more than four years. Reporters said that Ms Albright cut short a walk round Vukovar's marketplace after she was mobbed by a crowd shouting "bitch" and "fascist". *(Reuter)*

'Vampire' chills the blood in Miami

FROM DAVID ADAMS
IN MIAMI

WHEN police arrived at the crime scene they had never seen carnage like it. Lifeless victims — 69 in all — lay strewn across the yards of two homes in Sweetwater, a Hispanic neighbourhood in south Miami. However, it was a Miami massacre with a difference — a case perhaps for Ace Ventura, Pet Detective.

The victims were all animals — goats, chickens, geese and ducks. The killer, say police, and a local zoologist, was a large dog. Wrong, say local residents: it was the *chupacabras*, a vampire-like predator whose name means "goat-sucker" in Spanish.

For the past six months the hideous, bloodsucking beast with an oval head and bulging red eyes, part reptile, part insect, part UFO, has supposedly been terrorising the central mountains of Puerto Rico. After the slaughter in Sweetwater the *chupacabras* has established a place in Miami makebelieve.

It may sound like something out of *The X Files* but it has gripped more than just the imagination of Hispanic Miami. For those who believe in the *chupacabras*, the fear is real. In some cases the attack on livestock has caused serious economic loss.

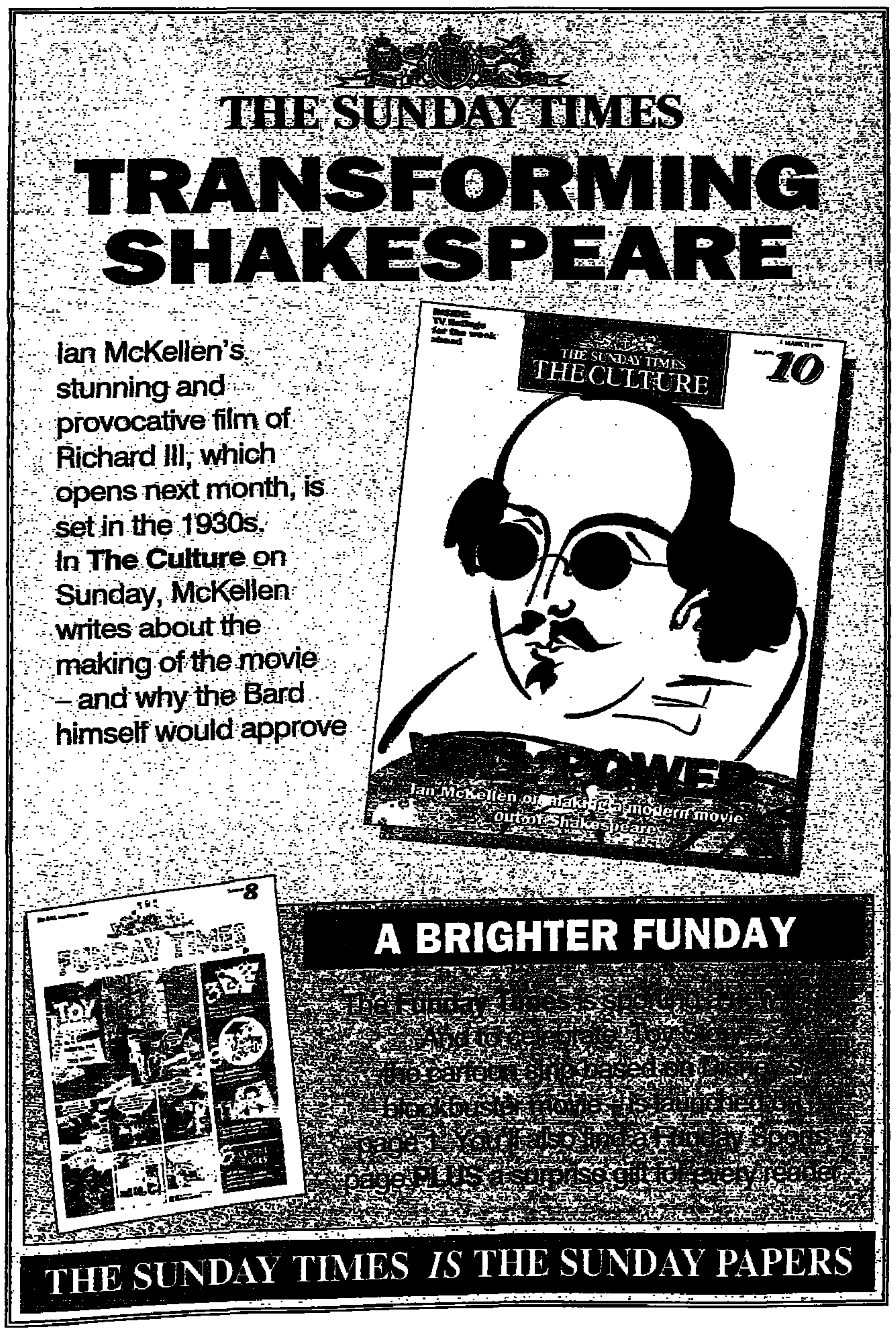
Authorities are taking the killings seriously, up to a point. A specialist has investigated the deaths, and a county commissioner has called for a police inquest.

Chupacabras has aroused great discussion — some of it less than serious — on the Internet, where it has its own home page. It has become big business with T-shirts and a *chupacabras* sandwich.

The interest has been fuelled by a number of accounts from seemingly credible witnesses. At least 15 claim to have had a close encounter with the monster, and one woman said that it jumped like a kangaroo and smelt like sulphur.

As for the Sweetwater slayings, Mr Magill found that the bite marks were "classic cannine punctures from dogs".

As for the vampire theory, he said: "Contrary to the popular belief, all the animals were full of blood."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THE SUNDAY TIMES
TRANSFORMING SHAKESPEARE

Ian McKellen's stunning and provocative film of Richard III, which opens next month, is set in the 1930s.
In The Culture on Sunday, McKellen writes about the making of the movie – and why the Bard himself would approve

A BRIGHTER FUNDAY
The Funday Times is [illegible] And to celebrate, Toy Story – the cartoon strip based on Disney's blockbuster movie – is launched on page 1. You'll also find a Funday Sports page PLUS a surprise gift for every reader

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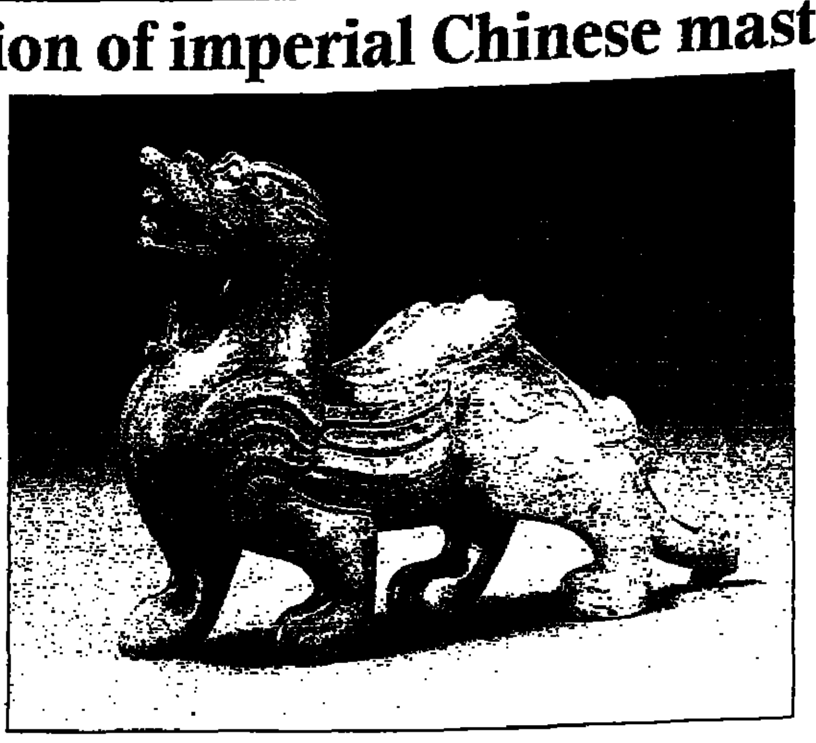
Rosemary Righter reports on a rare exhibition of imperial Chinese masterpieces

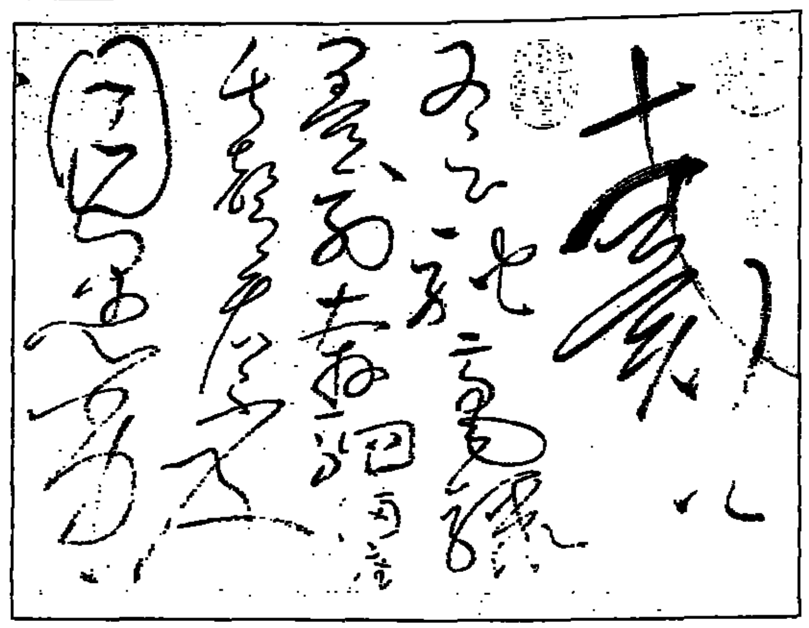
Forbidden treasures

A freezing morning in New York — so cold that every twig in Central Park has been coated with ice and sunlight turns the trees into a diamond forest. At the eastern edge of the park, the Metropolitan Museum is closed to the public, as it always is on a Monday. Inside, giant vases of forsythia fill the entrance hall with Chinese imperial yellow. Just beside them, somebody bends with needle and thread over a huge red banner appliquéd with purple Chinese characters, stitching last-minute repairs before it is hoisted over the museum's façade. There is a palpable excitement, even among the press registering for the preview of one of the rarest, and most obstacle-strewn, exhibitions the museum has ever mounted: *Splendours of Imperial China.*

The imperial Mandate of Heaven, in its millennial artistic manifestations, is about to descend on Manhattan. For the first time in 35 years, more than 450 of the imperial treasures from the National Palace Museum in Taiwan have been allowed to leave the island for a year-long tour of America. On view in New York are consummate masterpieces from a collection of more than 600,000 items, accumulated by Chinese emperors over a thousand years and spirited out of the Forbidden City in Peking in 1933 just ahead of the advancing Japanese Army. No finer Chinese art survives anywhere.

The opening of any great exhibition at the Metropolitan is an event in the New York social calendar, a celebration of the huge power and energy of American private patronage of the arts, an occasion for jewels and the kind of evening dresses almost never seen off the catwalk on this side of the Atlantic. But not even a scarlet and gold cheongsam could long divert the eye from 8th-century calligraphy darting, as the monk whose brushwork it was, wrote, "like a flock of birds from trees"; or from Wu Chen's ethereal bamboo paintings, completed in 1350 as an instruction manual for his young son; or from the immemorial pallor of a celadon lotus bowl from the 12th-century imperial kiln at Ju-chou, which lasted only 25 years but produced porcelain that has never been matched for purity of line and delicacy of glaze.





Above: 15th-century portrait of the Yung-lo Emperor. Top right: jade chimera from the Han dynasty (206 BC to AD 220). Bottom right: Huai-su handscroll, dated 777

Years ago, in Taipei, I met the late Han Lih-wu, one of the three men who, in 1933, spirited 20,000 crates of paintings and calligraphy, porcelain, jade, bronzes, lacquer, rare books and other objects through the great gates of the Forbidden City and across Tiananmen Square to the trains that would carry them to Shanghai. This was the first halt on their 7,500-mile, 16-year odyssey to the remotest reaches of war-torn China and ultimately to a safe haven. But the decision to ship them out of harm's way was never forgiven by the Chinese Government, which branded Han a war criminal.

In near impossible conditions the crates were moved, and moved again, sometimes only minutes before Japanese bombs destroyed their resting places. Some were shipped westward up the Yangtze in barges to Chungking and Loshan, some hauled over the Ch'in Ling mountains into Szechuan. The latter journey took more than a year in blizzards and such torrential rain that roads were washed out and bridges destroyed, forcing the team to haul their irreplaceable cargo across rivers on makeshift rafts.

Even when the crates found a temporary refuge in remote temples or caves, fire and white ants were an added hazard.

Finally, in 1949, the crates left the Chinese mainland for Taiwan in the final panic of the rout of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists by the Communists. Barely seaworthy vessels slipped out of the Yangtze under Communist guns and across mined sea-lanes. Yet when they unpacked the crates in Taipei, not a cup was broken.

It was one of the cultural miracles of this most destructive of centuries — a miracle given added significance by the subsequent destruction of much that remained in China. Even though Chou En-lai protected the leading museums during the Cultural Revolution, Red Guards made bonfires of provincial and private collections of paintings and forced the owners of priceless porcelains to smash them personally.

The drama helps to explain why the trove's existence in Taiwan is so bitterly contested by Peking that the American Government had to give explicit guarantees that the works of art now on loan would be immune to any legal challenge by China in American courts — guarantees that Taiwan would probably trust no European government to honour.

It also helps to explain why, at the last minute, Taiwan's proud new democracy nearly wrecked the entire venture. Politicians in mid-campaign for the US presidential elections bowed to vehement protests by art lovers in Taiwan, depriving the Metropolitan — and the other galleries to which the exhibition will travel — of 13 of the rarest, and most vulnerable, of the Northern Sung paintings in the collection. Nineteen more will now be shown in only one of the visited cities, and then only for short periods.

The anxiety is understandable. The monumental landscapes of the 11th-century Northern Sung paintings are so precious and so frail that under Taiwanese law they can be unrolled for view for only 40 days in every three years.

But the gap created in the exhibition is out of all proportion to the number of items withheld, for the Northern Sung, in particular, was an early High Renaissance in Chinese aesthetics — a ferment both of rediscovery of the past and of intense creativity. The mountains painted by Fan K'uan have an unequalled imaginative sweep and timeless perception of natural space that his imitators and successors never wholly recaptured; the paintings of Kuo Hsi are a stupendous emotional engagement with turbulent natural forces that rebuts the familiar clichés about Chinese scholarly serenity.

Even if these paintings were present, however, the delight and interest of *Splendours of Imperial China* would not have depended on the comprehensiveness of its historical sweep. Nor could it: thanks to spectacular recent archaeological finds, the museums on the Chinese mainland are now vastly richer in bronzes, jade and ceramics from the neolithic period through to the Han dynasty (4500 BC to AD 220) — as visitors to this September's great exhibition on ancient China at the British Museum will discover.

It is, rather, a reflection of imperial taste inherited down centuries marked by tumultuous periodic upheavals, such as the catastrophic losses during the collapse of the Ming dynasty. It is also a cultural and aesthetic history seen largely through the eyes of one ruler, the 18th-century Ch'ing Emperor, Ch'ien Lung, through whose acquisitive energy most of the collection that survives entered the Imperial Palace.

It provides us with a fascinating insight into the scholarly worlds of Ming and Ch'ing, and into the infusion, sometimes with bizarre effects, of Mongol and Tibetan tastes into the "classical" Chinese canon.

It is, above all, a world impassioned — as the title of the magnificent 660-page catalogue by Wen Fong and James Watt suggests — by the art of "possessing the past". It is a double sense of possession, both through the art of collecting, and through the creative reinterpretation — and sometimes merely slavish imitation — of ancient masters.

Nothing could be more different from our own sense of art and its meaning; nothing could be more seductive than this glimpse of treasures rescued from China's last great upheaval; and nothing, fortuitously, could be more dramatic than to see them at the moment when China is once again training its guns across the Taiwan Strait.

● Splendours of Imperial China: *Metropolitan Museum, New York, until May 19, and then on tour to Chicago, San Francisco and Washington DC.* China: New Discoveries from the Early Dynasties, *sponsored by* The Times, *will be at the British Museum from September 13 to January 5, 1997.*

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Why the lounge is non-U

SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Giles Coren

Chatting about stakeholding on Radio 4 the other day, Baroness Blackstone had me momentarily panic-stricken. "People will be talking about it in sitting rooms and dining rooms across the country," she said. Not me. I haven't got a sitting room. My home just has five rooms in it. None of them has a name.

What is a sitting room? Is it a drawing room? Is it a living room? Then what is the television room? Or the front room? Or the family room? Or the parlour? Or, indeed, the one always known as "the other room"?

Once upon a time, room naming was terribly important. It was frightfully non-U to have a lounge, for example. As bad as calling the loo the toilet. But with all the choices in the modern world, how are we to know where we might correctly discuss this stakeholding business?

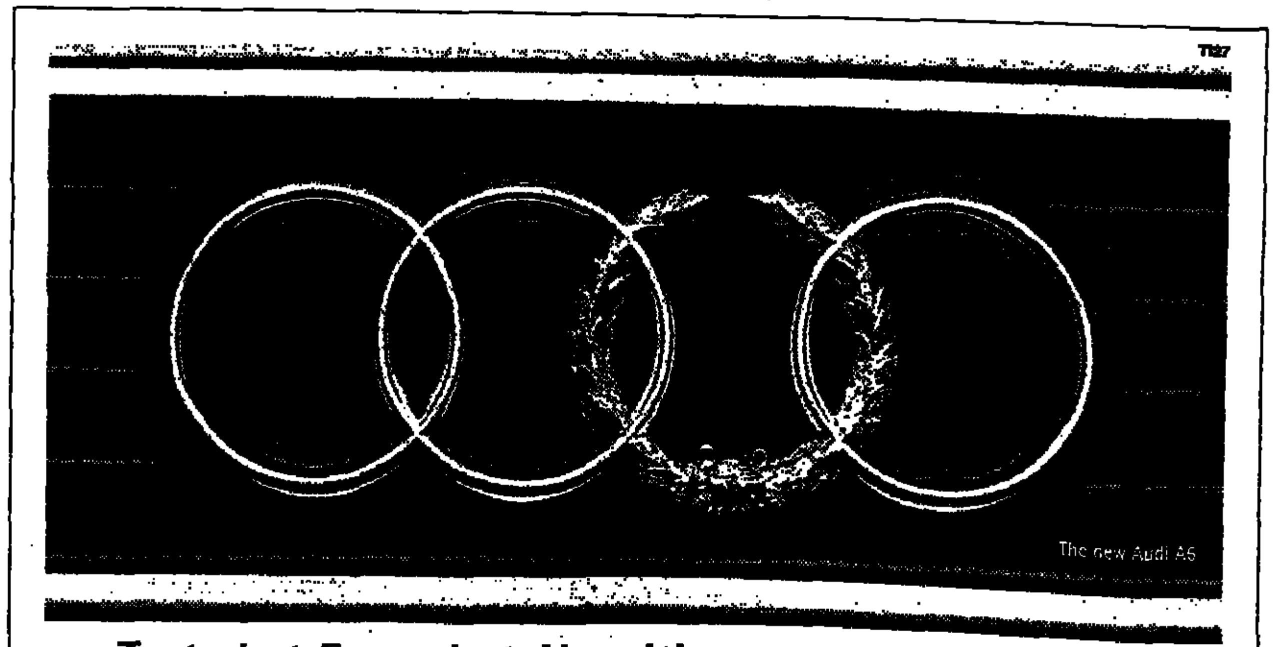
If anyone should know, it is James Morgan, author of the forthcoming *Debrett's Etiquette and Modern Manners.* "In any home, the main non-eating day room should be called the drawing room," he says. "It suggests a certain formality, but is central to any pretence of civilised living. Originally known as the withdrawing room, because one withdrew there after dinner, it remains the room where you entertain guests, and definitely not the place to eat a takeaway in front of the television. *In a modern home,* however small, it is crucial."

Every home should have one — but what do we call it?

The sitting room, however, is a luxury available only to those who have a drawing room as well. "This," says Mr Morgan, "is probably what Baroness Blackstone had in mind." It was once appended to the bedroom, and remains a more *private* place, having shaken off the intimacy of the boudoir. It is a more modestly furnished room, and here you might have the television or radio, or discuss stakeholding.

"Living room", it seems, is merely a generic term for non-eating day rooms, into which these others fall. But according to Mr Morgan, "it is important to designate what each room is for". Thus family room is an acceptable alternative to sitting room, but lounge is not — "only airports have lounges" — and front room is equally NQOCD. The most common variant, of course, is the television (or occasionally telly) room. But statistics show that the average household has several televisions, so that doesn't narrow things down much.

Not, of course, that the millennial world has need of such niceties, for modern man can now work out where to read a book or smoke a cigarette without having a room specially named after the activity. But perhaps this is what stakeholding is all about. If John Major's classless society has rendered irrelevant the social distinctions pointed up by the way people name their rooms, perhaps Tony Blair envisages something *new: an ideal nation,* where *everyone* has a sitting room. For "sitting room", as we have seen, has one thing in common with stakeholding: it doesn't really mean anything.



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Lloyd George knew my mother

For years, Jennifer Longford had to conceal her identity as a Prime Minister's love-child. Now she has decided to tell her story

Whenever Jennifer Longford reads of a politician caught out in an affair, or having a love-child, she reflects on her own secret childhood. In the days when even the Prime Minister could keep his affairs private, she was born to Frances Stevenson, Lloyd George's secretary, mistress and eventual second wife.

In her childhood photographs, Lloyd George smiles indulgently down at her. They walk along leafy lanes, feed the chickens and sit in the garden discussing the New Deal.

"I could never have remained a secret today," she says, laughing, "there would be a lot more digging." Mrs Longford is a retired schoolteacher, still pretty at 66, and proud of her own eldest daughter Ruth, who next week publishes *Frances, More Than a Mistress*, the story her fascinating grandmother asked her to tell one day.

Before Frances died aged 84 in 1972, A.J.P. Taylor had edited her vividly observant diaries. But discretion still ruled.

Jennifer's existence had long been denied by her mother. "Do you regret never having had children yourself?" Fyfe Robertson asked Frances in a television interview in 1967, when she had written her autobiography. After a pause, she replied: "Lloyd George was my child."

"I felt obliterated. Quite blotted out," Jennifer says.

Like many mistresses, the spirited Frances — at 23 — justified her affair by regarding Mrs Lloyd George ("a lump of flesh, possessing, like the jellyfish, the power of irritating") as a neglectful wife who, at home with the children, failed to provide a soft shoulder for her husband to lean on. Frances would always provide that.

She twice had an abortion. "I would be proud to have his child, and would be willing to suffer for it," she wrote sadly in her 1915 diary, "rather than die childless." But by 1929 she was nearly 40, and desperate for motherhood. Since LG would never risk the disgrace of divorcing his wife, Frances had an affair with a colleague, Colonel Thomas Tweed. But that Christmas LG had flu and stayed with her in Surrey.

In January, Frances joined Tweed in Torquay, but was certain that she was already pregnant by LG. She wrote to him: "It really has happened this time, my love, and I am so thrilled about it and hope that you will be too . . . You can depend upon me to love and cherish you 'till death us do part'. You are my husband, and my little child . . ."

From babyhood, Jennifer called LG "Taid" (Welsh for "grandfather") and he was a constant presence in her life. But she was told to say, at school, that she had been adopted by Miss Stevenson after her missionary parents had been killed in China. Every Christmas, Jennifer was left with her nanny while Frances went away with LG. Decades later, Jennifer still felt a sinking of the heart when she heard the first carols.

"But I thoroughly enjoyed my childhood and wasn't conscious of missing her, or thinking it odd. And I loved my boarding school."

Her school was evacuated to Chatsworth House. "I am still surprised when I see Henry VIII's rather fine legs in Holbein's portrait, since they covered the lower half of the pictures in case they were damaged by children running past."

At 11, she discovered a file marked "Jennifer's File" in her nursery. "It contained my school reports, a lock of my hair and a 'certificate of adoption'. My mother angrily said she would tell me who my parents were when I was 16. She said she was 'bound to secrecy'. I was so used to not knowing, I didn't mind; but I was never really fooled by her stories.

"After LG died in 1945, when I was 15, she told me a totally false story about having been married to Tweed and LG having insisted that the marriage was never acknowledged, out of jealousy. She was saying I was, in fact, legitimate but very much a secret child. Somehow, deep down, I didn't believe it: Tweed showed no interest whatever in me and was married to someone else. It was only when I was 30 that I found my mother's marriage certificate stating that she was a spinster when she married LG. I confronted her with it and she said: 'Well, yes.'

"She certainly slept with both LG and Tweed in the month I was conceived, so it is perfectly possible that she was covering her tracks. Horrifying, isn't it, to think of anyone doing that, but this wonderful opportunity presented itself to make the whole thing uncertain right from the beginning."

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

Lloyd George, the old Welsh goat, was notorious for making passes at any young girl who crossed his path; Frances constantly had to soothe maids, farmhands etc. But Jennifer has fond memories of LG.

"I always found him great fun: I remember him reading me a story about the Moon falling into the sea and illustrating it by dropping an orange into a glass of water. He made a great fuss of me: treating me as an equal really, as someone whose opinion counted."

In 1938 Jennifer was taken to the Strangers' Gallery of the Commons to hear him speak in the appeasement debate. In November 1940, he wrote to her at school (still hoping to join Churchill's War Cabinet): "We have made blunder after blunder and are still blundering. I had experience in directing a great war and I helped to win the victory. I am unhappy at the way things are done today and I wish I could be in a position to change the course of events."

Jennifer was 14 when Frances married LG, to the fury of his family, becoming Countess Lloyd George, respectable at last. His disagreeable daughter Megan subjected both Frances and Jennifer to ostracism. "There was no atom of sympathy in Megan for my mother, even though she had herself been the mistress of a Labour MP, Philip Noel-Baker, for years."

But as a teenager she began to feel that LG was a constricting parent: "He wanted me still to be a small child. At his eightieth birthday, someone said they looked forward to his ninetieth — and my heart rather sank at the idea of growing up under this very restrictive person."

Jennifer, growing up as spirited as Frances had been, escaped first to university; and then spent a year with a slum family — unemployed father, part-time prostitute wife (whose bed Jennifer shared) and ragged children — publishing a book under the pseudonym Margaret Lassell that was acclaimed by Malcolm Muggeridge and others for its dispassionate observation of working-class life. "I wanted to find out how people lived who did not live in a nice Surrey village," she says.

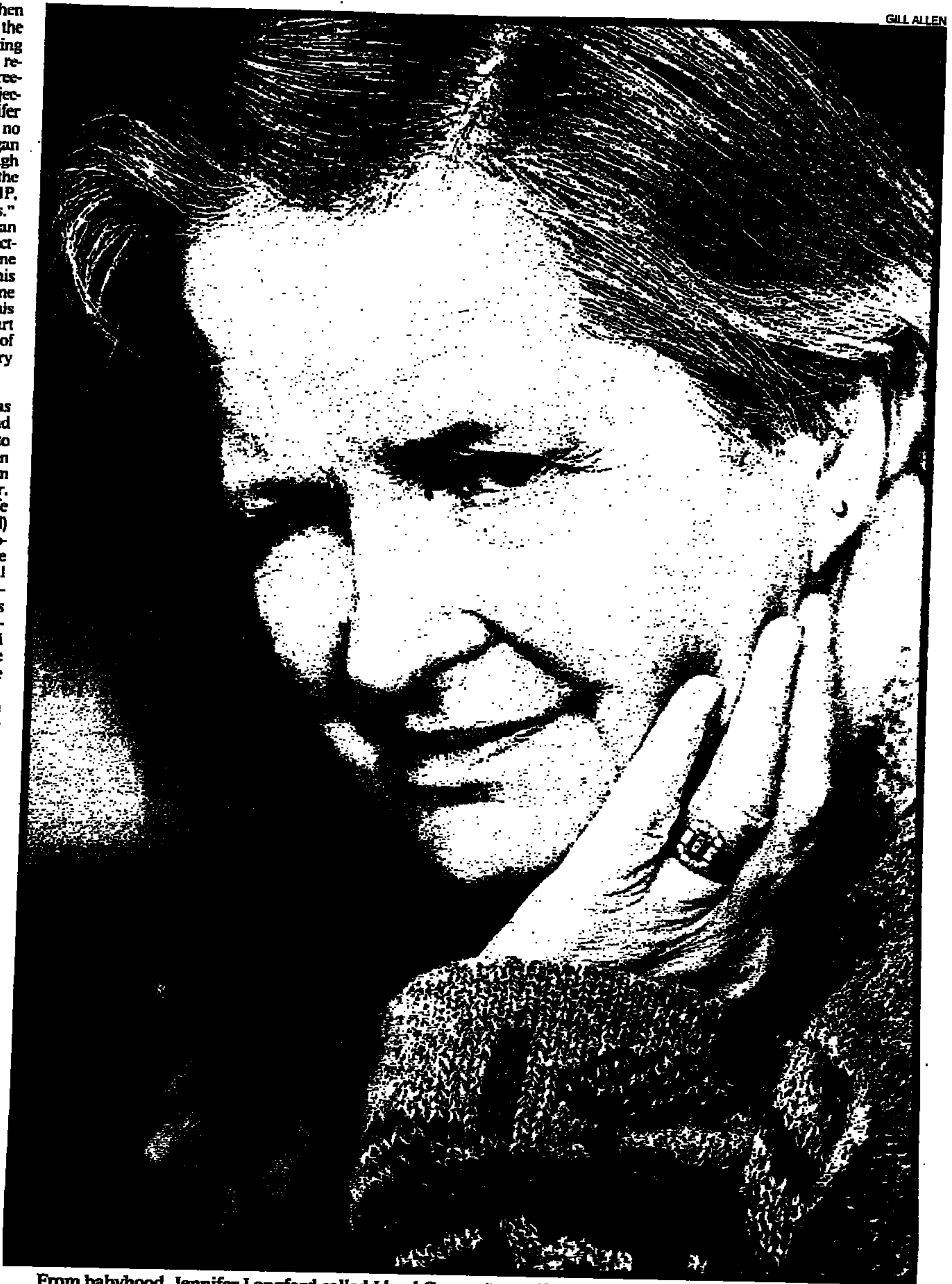
She then went to teach in Tanganyika, where she instantly fell in love with the Governor's secretary, Michael Longford. "Infuriating really," she says. "I loved teaching, but within days we were engaged."

When they came home from East Africa with three children, she taught in a Surrey comprehensive specialising in giving pupils in the lowest stream the chance to get a CSE in childcare. Today, she and Michael teach English to foreign students who live with them at home in their cottage.

A box of relics contains LG's passport and her mother's official pass from Versailles in 1918. Not far away at Churt is Avalon, the lovely house Frances built and furnished for LG as a bolthole ("she always spent more than she had"), currently for sale at £750,000.

"I know it can't be proved that I am LG's daughter — therefore it is unimportant. People say that I look like him." She gives a blue-eyed beam. "But then they are expecting that, aren't they."

GILL ALLEN



From babyhood, Jennifer Longford called Lloyd George "grandfather" — but she "was never really fooled"

Julia Llewellyn Smith profiles George Simpson, one of Britain's latest breed of investors' darlings

Rise of the supermanager

In the public imagination, George Simpson might not be the obvious candidate for corporate superstardom. An unassuming, soft-spoken accountant with an endearing grin and rosy cheeks, Mr Simpson, 53, comes across as everybody's favourite uncle, rather than a sharp-suited smoothie speeding up the hard shoulder to catch the last Concorde.

Yet this shrewd Scot, whose favourite phrase is "You've got to get your cock on the block, laddie", has been headhunted to succeed the legendary Lord Weinstock as chief executive of Britain's biggest manufacturer, the General Electric Company, in preference to several promising candidates (including Weinstock's son).

Not only is Simpson a rank outsider, his record is determinedly undazzling. "He may not be the most exciting manager in Britain, but he is like the Rock of Gibraltar," a former colleague has said.

After joining British Leyland as an accountant in 1969, he moved through a succession of increasingly large businesses, including Coventry Climax forklift trucks, Freight Rover vans and Leyland Trucks, before taking over at Rover, first as chief executive, then as chairman.

Simpson: down to earth

None of these sparkled under Simpson but in the longer term, say insiders, they have become thriving, innovative businesses thanks largely to his strategic thinking. "The stock market doesn't love Simpson because he doesn't make radical changes," says a motor industry analyst. "But investors admire him because he tackles weaknesses and gets slow but sure results."

He moved on to British Aerospace, and was then headhunted for the position of chief executive of Lucas, the motor parts-to-aerospace group, which has been ailing since the 1970s. "He underestimated the task he took on at Lucas," says one industry observer. "Its share price has underperformed in comparison to the Footsie, but that is because his moves have been long-term, and will pay dividends in a decade's time."

Simpson's philosophy will appeal to Lord Weinstock, who has ruled GEC for more than three decades. But superficially the two men could not be more different. Weinstock, 71, is an aloof sophisticate, who loves music and racing. He is a trustee of the British Museum and has honorary degrees from ten universities.

Simpson is known as a man of the people. He has a passion for golf and rugby, is an industrial professor at Warwick University, and is the president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Analysts on a visit to a Lucas brakes plant in France were impressed by Simpson who stayed up with them until 1.30am drinking and talking about the motor industry — uncharacteristic behaviour for a chief executive.

In common with many rising stars in the business firmament, Simpson, who has been married for 22 years and has two children, has boundless energy, a diffident manner that hides a ruthless edge and comes from a working-class background. The son of the manager of a Dundee flax mill, he attended the local grammar school and went on to the Dundee Institute of Technology.

"These are the boys who are winning through," says a headhunter. "British business is a meritocracy. No one cares any more about the rough edges. Peter Bonfield at BT sounds really rough, he even drops his aitches. But he gets the job done."

GEC will pay Simpson around £568,000 a year, only a fraction more than his salary at Lucas. "But this isn't about money," says a former colleague. "He has taken on GEC for the challenge."

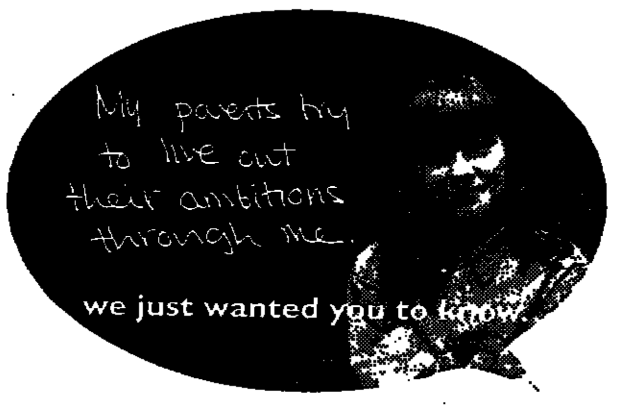
THREE MORE WHO HAVE CLIMBED TO THE TOP

JOHN BROWNE, chief group executive elect, BP. Aged 48, "small but perfectly formed", quiet, brilliant and ruthless cost-cutter. Son of a British soldier and a Romanian interpreter. King's School, Ely; Cambridge (first in physics), Stanford Business School. With BP all his working life; has held a string of troubleshooting roles from Alaska to Aberdeen, excelled as head of exploration. Obsessed with BP, eschews small-talk. Unmarried, smokes cigars, loves opera, ballet, collects primitive Colombian artefacts.

BILL COCKBURN, chief executive of WH Smith since January after 35 years at the Post Office, where he rose to chief executive. Aged 53, short, chubby, Scot, staunch family man. Son of a hospital porter, attributes managerial skills to being the oldest of eight children. Educated at the Holy Cross Academy in Edinburgh. Could not afford university. Has a bouncy no-nonsense charm that endears him to the rank and file but colleagues say that he can be a cost-cutting "human tank". His passions are rugby and golf.

NIALL FITZGERALD, chief executive elect, Unilever UK. Educated at St Munchin's College, Limerick, and University College, Dublin. Chosen despite Persil Power, the new brand of detergent for which he had overall responsibility and which was alleged to rot clothes. Colleagues praise his leadership, creativity and analytical skills. Known as a risk-taker who can turn around an underperforming investment. Asked for a motorcycle rather than a company car. Married, 50, three children. Crazy about jazz and football.

Tomorrow in the Magazine
The life of Lloyd George on film



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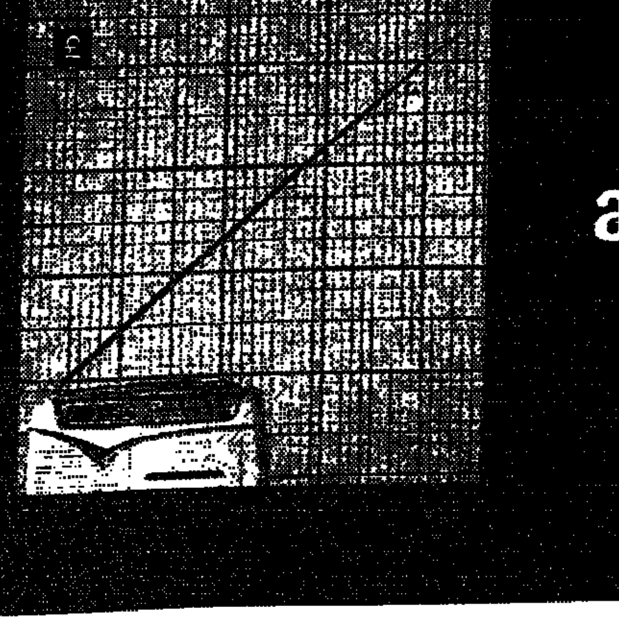

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Philip Howard

■ There has never been a great book without a great title — discuss

Today, the burning edge of science is Comet Hyakutake. But comets are flibbertigibbets, here today and gone tomorrow. The place to see the future of science as opposed to the state of the art is not in today's night sky but in the theses being written by tomorrow's professors. And some of these are published in this week's Oxford University *Gazette*. The oral examinations for the degree of doctor of philosophy offer a rainbow of special subjects to make us feel like Mr Hyakutake when his comet swam into his Zen.

We look at S-stem nouns in Indo-European word formation and "hamstring contraction latency", at Francophilia and Francophobia in English society 1748-83 and the roles of vitamin A in embryonic lung development in mice, with a wild surmise, and have a wild regret that we shall never be so lost in scholarship as to understand them. We may feel like the man who was asked what he would take if he were to be marooned on a desert island and had the whole of Canadian literature to choose from. He answered, "Poison." But the man was wrong. He should have said Margaret Atwood and Robertson Davies for starters, and Robert Service for wilderness laughters. So we should be wrong to rule out the research projects of the Oxford scholars as over our heads and beyond our ken. For example, J. Wearing-Wilde of Wolfson College is being examined on "Reproductive biology of the bark-louse *Lepinotus patruelis* (psocoptera): *implications for courtship theory*". Even those who shudder at distinguishing a bark-louse from the common-or-garden sort might learn how to deal with their daughters' undesirable suitors from its courtship theory. Is the bark-louse a slow courter, or fast, like the male rabbit who said to the female, "This is fun, wasn't it?"

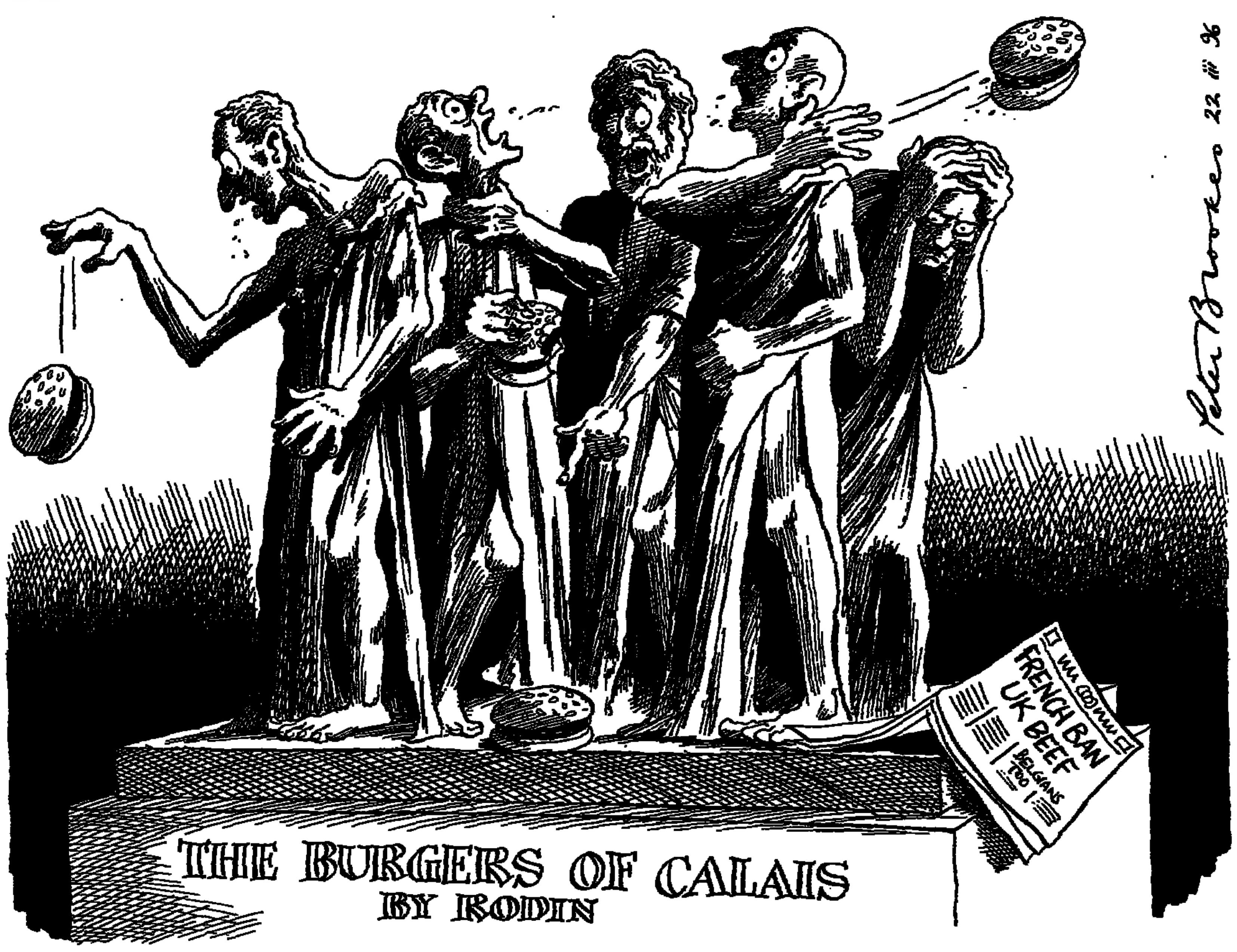
No knowledge is entirely useless. But natural science is a wonderful source of research that sounds wacky. We used to run a column called "silly book titles of the year" at Christmas in *The Times*. But we dropped it because we felt sorry for the indignant authors, unreviewed and then, to add insult to injury, mocked in public. But the Frankfurt Book Fair still runs a competition to find the book title that "most outrageously exceeds all bounds of credibility". It has been won by such titles guaranteed to introduce a rattling good yawn as *Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice* and *The Joy of Chickens*. And it is remarkable how many silly titles are about the other animals, from Poodle Groomers to Lappish Bear Grave Archaeologists.

In *Frog Raising for Pleasure and Profit and other Bizarre Books*, by Russell Ash and Brian Lake, the best section contains weird books on plants and animals in the wonderful world of nature. *Harnessing Earthworms* must be Thomas J. Barrett's guide to the breaking of bronco worms in the Wild West of the allotment. And *The Common Teasel as a Carnivorous Plant* sounds like a video in urgent need of a V-chip or the kind of terrifying man-eating plant that swarms over the news pages in August.

For my desert island, I fancy *Fish Who Answer the Telephone* by Yury Petrovich Frolov. Do you think one could train them to bubble: "I'm sorry, he's in a meeting"? And could such fish live in our coffee percolator? If I were marooned on a desert island, they could deal with any castaway messages in bottles that were washed up. I must also have *The Art of Faking Exhibition Poultry* by George Riley Scott. Riley Scott treads a wobbly line between condemning this widespread and despicable practice, and telling the reader how to do it. He includes a crucial piece of advice: "Always wear rubber gloves."

Dammit, there is no room in our sandy treasure island bookshelf for *New Guinea Tapeworms and Jewish Grandmothers* or *Ferret Facts and Fancies*. But I want *Frog Raising for Pleasure and Profit*, if only for its handy recipes for such things as "minced giant bullfrog savoury sandwiches".

Any human activity, when looked at through narrowed eyes, can seem ridiculous. Some books add a little to the sum of human knowledge. But silly titles are a minor genre that adds to the gaiety of desert islands.



A mandarin in Peking

Does the DPP, Mrs Mills, have no shame about taking tea with evil?

Bernard Levin

On my desk I have a bundle of papers some inch and a half thick, all of them consisting of complaints about the present Director of Public Prosecutions, Mrs Barbara Mills. A sample: ". . . policemen's leader described her as a disaster and said that she should be sacked . . . *Is this woman more concerned with protecting 'criminals' rights than convicting them? . . .* one senior Tory said *'She is a menace to the justice system'* . . . CPS director faces dissent from lawyers . . . Last week Mrs Mills faced calls to resign . . ."

This bombardment of poor Mrs Mills could be taken with a shrug, and mostly was, but she has now stepped into the limelight in a very different position. She has just come back from China, where she has been matching our legal system with China's, by the courtesy of the Chinese Government; she had come to "see for herself some of the 'major differences' between the two criminal justice systems".

And clearly, the Chinese Government has gone far to inveigle this booby into believing that the Chinese are not all that different from us when it comes to the business of how their respective countries run. I start with this bon-bon: "The Chinese authorities have already come to Britain and a programme for their procurators is being organised."

I'll say it is being organised.

But then comes the full blast of folly. "She visited the procuratorates or prosecuting authorities — in Peking, Tianjin and Shanghai, and also observed a murder trial." (What a pity she couldn't stay for the hanging.) "Major differences between the two criminal justice systems." She said it, not me. *I* was busy actually measuring the differences. Very major indeed, those differences. For I have in my hand a document, from the scrupulous work of Amnesty International, headed "China: No one is safe" and goes on: "Abuse of power — Torture — Executions". For where Mrs Mills sees invisible democracy coming one day, a fifth of the world's people may never defy, even in the smallest particular, the rules and orders and instructions and even beliefs that the Chinese Government has decreed. Go smile at that, Madam.

I now turn to Amnesty's document of reality. I rather doubt that Mrs Mills would have been shown what now follows. It is a list of crimes which, in China, carry capital punishment. They are not just frighteners, and all of them have been used in executions:

> . . . poisoning of livestock, murder, attempted murder, manslaughter, killing a tiger, armed robbery, robbery, rape, causing injury, assault, habitual theft, theft, burglary, kidnapping, trafficking in women or children, organising prostitution, pimping, organising pornography rings, publishing pornography, hooliganism, seriously disrupting public order, causing explosions, destroying or causing damage to public or private property, counter-revolutionary sabotage, arson, drug-trafficking, corruption, embezzlement, taking bribes, fraud, speculation and profiteering, forgery, reselling value-added tax receipts, tax evasion, stealing or illegally manufacturing weapons, illegally possessing or selling firearms and ammunition, stealing or dealing in national treasures or cultural relics, selling counterfeit money, and blackmail.

It is so awful that it almost becomes funny. I wonder what Mrs Mills would have made of it, if her guide had been so careless as to show it to her. And did her chaperones mention the "Dying Rooms", in which babies unwanted by the State are flung down, among the filth and horror, to starve and die? What? They didn't say a word about it? How remiss! But surely Mrs Mills was shown one or two mass executions, which are not only numerous but steadily growing more so? These people killed by the Government, you must understand, have not been tried, and indeed they have not set eyes on any kind of a court; thousands of people have been sent to the forced labour camps, with or without any reason being given. And if you haven't started to shudder yet, Mrs Mills, try this statistic: every year, more people are executed in China than in all the rest of the world put together. (But can it be that Mrs Mills was not given those numbers? Tut, tut.)

Then Mrs Mills visited a prison, "which, she thought, stood comparison with British jails . . . Prisoners had quite a lot of freedom, recreation. They had televisions, a running-track and so on — and the prisoners appeared to be well-fed and looked after". *And as far as I can see, she believed every word of it.*

Well, let us see if we can dent that smugness; what about "Sentences are far heavier than in Britain". Again, Mrs Mills seems to be on the verge of announcing that two and two make four. Asssuredly, sentences *are* far heavier than in Britain, especially, I might say, when the sentences in question end with a bullet in the back of the neck.

Torture by the authorities is rife; pregnant women are in perpetual danger, as this statement, from a former planning official, shows:

> It was part of my work to force women to have abortions. In the evening when the couple was likely to be at home, we would go to their houses and drag the woman out. If the woman was not at home, we would take her husband or another member along and keep them in custody until the woman turned herself in.

That's nothing. But I think this is: "An unmarried woman in Hebei province who had adopted one of her brother's children was detained several times in an attempt to force her brother to pay fines for having had too many children. In November 1994 she was held for seven days with a dozen other men and women. She was reportedly blindfolded, stripped naked, tied and beaten with an electric baton." (And don't think that women being beaten with an electric baton is a rare sight in China's cells.)

What are the Chinese leaders afraid of? Revolution? It would be put down in a single afternoon, and the ringleaders dead before that. Loss of face? That was abandoned years ago. A shortage of torture instruments? Alas, there has never been a shortage of those. Yet the leaders behave as if they were on the edge of a precipice and one step would take them over. Well then, what?

It cannot be, alas, the men and women who have dared to defy the brutish system; those heroes and heroines will get their prize in Heaven, not on this earth. The name Ren Wanding would be known to only a few; but he was the man who dared to speak out, knowing what the penalty would be. He had been in China's jails before, based on his "calls for respect for human rights, free speech and the rule of law". He was then sentenced to seven years' prison, but before his "trial" he said, "I am no longer afraid. I have already died once in prison. Once you have been there, you are never really afraid again."

And what about those ten monks, who gave out leaflets which included a Tibetan translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Pause for a moment at the thought of those monks. They knew what would happen, and it did; would you go on giving out leaflets in the shape of a tiny corner of the truth, when you knew what the result would be? I wouldn't. Well, these monks were sentenced for terms ranging from five years to 19 years. And Chinese prisoners sweat out their terms with no remission.

I thought of totting up all the prison terms I had noted in my document, but it would have taken me hours to finish. So instead, I thought about Wei Jingsheng, though I had thought a lot about him, and I dare say I shall think more about him yet. He was the man, if you don't know, who had been imprisoned for 13 years, with no remission, for "expressing his views about politics and human rights". Then he was released, and within weeks he was found expressing his views about politics and human rights again, whereupon he was sentenced to another 12 years.

Let us come back to the beginning, and those three tolling bells: "Abuse of power", "Torture", and "Executions". Yes, that masthead with its plain truth, "China — No one is safe", was absolutely right. But that makes one think not about a giant land called China that is striving to look as though it is a country that will one day match the real democracies, but about something much more like Rwanda.

As for the ones who truly believe everything and anything that they are told, there is little hope for them. Does Mrs Mills feel ashamed at what Amnesty has dug up while she was taking tea with evil? Well, if she doesn't, perhaps she might think about Taiwan, and agree that the Taiwanese are having a fine time. In any case, we should think about the Buddhist who has just been sentenced to 28 years.

Heeding the wrong boffins

Magnus Linklater

asks how the beef saga came to this

The instinct of any British government is to protect British industries, to save money and to maintain public confidence. That is why the Government's response to health scares involving food is almost always wrong. Ministers react with caution when action is required, and panic when good sense should prevail. That is precisely what has happened with the BSE crisis, which is certainly the most serious of its kind since the war. For the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, even to be contemplating the slaughter of Britain's 11 million cattle is a measure of the desperate straits in which he now finds himself.

It would be an absurd and misguided solution, but what is every bit as deplorable is the history of missed opportunities, suppressed evidence and failure of nerve which has characterised the Government's handling of the issue hitherto. "I can't imagine a more damaging scenario," said one Borders farmer to me yesterday morning as he contemplated the possible end of his herd, built up carefully over seven years. "A large but unknown proportion of infected cattle, a large but unknown proportion of infected people, no reliable tests, and an incubation period of five to fifteen years."

The Government would argue that it has simply responded down the years to the best available scientific evidence, and that until Wednesday, when scientists at the Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease unit at Edinburgh's Western General Hospital finally conceded that there might be a link between BSE and CJD, there was no reason to alarm the public and threaten a major industry.

It is not so simple; science rarely is. Down the years, there has been no shortage of solid warnings from wise and reliable experts that Britain faced a cattle epidemic which could turn into an equally catastrophic human epidemic. As long ago as the early 1980s, the environmental expert Richard North was hearing from vets, farmers, and abattoir owners about substantial levels of BSE in the West Country. The official response in 1986 was to offer farmers compensation for slaughtering infected cattle, but not only did the Government fail to police this properly, but the compensation was only for half of the cattle's value. From 1986 to 1989, hundreds of infected cattle were allowed into the slaughtering system.

The Southwood committee, set up in 1988 to assess the possible dangers to human beings, contained no experts in spongiform brain disease, and concluded that the risk of passing on the disease was "remote". Ministers, from John Gummer onwards, have seized on this, seeing in it a way of holding the line. At the same time they have downplayed and even suppressed contradictory evidence. Dr Harash Narang, who submitted evidence linking BSE and CJD in 1990, and who claims to have devised urinary tests for diagnosing both diseases, has seen his career decline. Dr Gerald Forbes, formerly director of environmental health in Scotland, says he was "sidelined" when he refused to accept the government view of BSE. Professor Richard Lacey, who has been a moving force in urging the ban of offal and other parts of slaughtered cattle since 1990, is regarded as unreliable, and the view of Sir Bernard Tomlinson, the retired neuropathologist, who said publicly last year that he had warned his children and grandchildren not to eat beefburgers, was dismissed.

But instead, the Government has concentrated mainly on epidemiology, investigating dietary habits and the risks faced by farmers, vets and slaughtermen. Richard North says there were flaws in the way evidence was reported. The Government veterinary service was being cut back just when first-hand evidence was needed, and there was a fatal division of responsibility between the the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Health.

Dr Forbes believes that the ministry was too close to the farming lobby, and so was prepared to shrug off evidence linking the two diseases. "I've always said the agriculture department was too fond of the farmers," he told me. "All the running was made by veterinary officers rather than medical officers."

Perhaps worst of all, the whole BSE saga has been shrouded in the kind of secrecy that characterises so much government policy. There has been a suspicion of those who challenge the orthodox view and an unwillingness to discuss the risk for fear of putting a £3 billion industry at risk. The net result has been to achieve precisely that.

Asked yesterday what we should do now, most experts began with a version of "I wouldn't have started from here". But all agreed that the wholesale slaughter of Britain's cattle would be a mistake. Richard North pointed out that since only ten deaths from CJD had been linked to cattle, the causes of another 90 are unaccounted for. Dr Narang believes that his urinary test must now be given proper consideration, if only because if it proves reliable it would be the quickest way of restoring public confidence. Dr Forbes points out that eliminating Britain's cattle herd will do nothing for people already infected, and adds that incidences of BSE are now in steady decline.

What clearly needs to change is the way health risks are tackled. What the BSE scandal reveals is that when a government is afraid of the answers, it is not prepared to listen to the questions.

THE TIMES DIARY

Fish to fry

SIX YEARS ON, John Gummer may be regretting feeding his young daughter Cordelia a hamburger in front of the cameras. But the public relations exercise cannot have been so foolhardy as that of a number of Peruvian politicians who in 1991 were trying to play down a cholera scare in their country.

The Peruvian Fisheries Minister, Félix Canal Torres, appeared on television to reassure the public. He was joined by the President, Alberto Keinya Fujimori, and the Agriculture Minister. And together, they cheerfully tucked into a plate of raw fish to prove that it was perfectly safe for human consumption. Sensibly, the Health Minister refused to indulge himself.

The next day, Canal Torres fell ill. Indeed, so sick was the poor fellow that he had to be carted off to hospital. The South American newspapers reported, a touch too gleefully, that he was suffering from cholera.

Fortunately, he made a good recovery and the official government line was that he had laryngitis, unrelated to his TV dinner. But Canal Torres now thinks twice before feasting on raw fish.

● *Stephen Dorrell's pronouncement on "mad cow" disease disturbed the rural slumber at the* Archers *studio at Radio 4. Staff were summoned to re-record part of last night's episode and incorporate a "topical insert" on the British beef crisis — just as they were summoned when Terry Waite was released. John Archer, whose family has farmed for umpteen generations, became the first Archer to fight shy of beef.*

One's snack

AS NIGHT falls on Mayfair, a car pulls out from the Lancer's International restaurant opposite Claridge's and makes its way to Buckingham Palace. Kuldeep Makhni, owner and head chef at the restaurant, is on his twice-weekly curry run, whizzing round bhunas, bhajis and bindi for the Queen and her household.

Specialising in French and Chinese as well as Indian cuisine, Lancer's has won its royal contract after being open a mere four months. Makhni, however, who owns six restaurants in his home city of Bombay, is used to royalty. When the Kings of Nepal and Bhutan feel like something spicy, it is his telephone which rings.

So, is the Queen a vindaloo-wallah or a sucker for the soothing korma? Unlike certain other royal retainers, Makhni is something of a limp poppadum when it comes to divulging the private tastes of his First Customer. "I can say nothing officially at this time," he says. I'll warrant he will in time.

Final score

COLLECTORS of cricket ephemera will be out in force for a forthcoming auction. Brian Johnston's family is to sell the contents of the great man's study. Proceeds from the Phillips auction, to be held this summer, will go to the Brian Johnston Memorial Trust.

An early inventory reveals that Johnners squirrelled away scorecards, his commentary notes and scraps of paper from as far back as his university days. "We don't describe him as a collector," says his son Ian. "I think 'hoarder' would be the right word."

Popping up

CHELSEA is to have yet another celebrity resident: pop star and modernist dauber David Bowie. Bowie has cheered up a depressed property market by snapping up a house in Gilston Road, Chelsea (est. price, £2.5 million). Now 49, Bowie has reached life's mellow season after years jetting between digs in Switzerland, Mustique, Umbria and the Irish Republic, as well as London.

Iman and David: just comfy

In a recent interview, he said that he and his wife, the model Iman, would need "seclusion, separate staff cottages and an indoor swimming pool". With payments owing on their Audi convertibles, the estate agents are only too happy to oblige.

Closed book

A NEW skirmish has broken out in this year's battle of the books: the tussle between Sonia Land, chief executive of the literary agency Sheil Land, and her erstwhile colleague Giles Gordon.

Since resigning from Sheil Land to join rivals Curtis Brown, Gordon has been reeling from her onslaughts. First he received an injunction limiting communication with former clients such as Peter Ackroyd and Vikram Seth, then a writ arrived alleging that a press campaign against her. With the injunction lifted, Gordon was beginning to relax — but now Ms Land has issued a writ against the company.

Six veils

ONE of the Royal Ballet's youngest starbursts has stumbled into a lucrative career as a hat model.

Ballet good show, Sarah

Sarah Wildor, 23, was discovered recently by Janis Anderson, managing director of Bermona hats, after a night at the ballet.

When she looked up from her programme to see the lissom Wildor tiptoeing onto the stage as Manon, Anderson was won. Within days, the ballerina was signed up. "She has the most wonderful eyes," gushes Anderson. "They bring to mind the saying that they are the window of the soul." For the purists, Wildor can be seen in her six-hanky performance of *Giselle* next month.

P·H·S

A HAPPY HYBRID

Ulster's parties should accept these elections

The electoral system for Ulster's peace forum unveiled yesterday looks an ugly mongrel. The combination of constituency lists and Province-wide popularity polls will fascinate psephologists but leaves the parties dis-satisfied and the people, for the moment, bewildered. But, given the raw materials with which it had to work, the Government has fashioned a workable compromise which no reasonable party can object to on principled grounds. Northern Ireland's politicians would do their people a grave disservice if they did not seek to make the mongrel work.

Devising elections for a peace convention was always going to be a task to test ministers' ingenuity. Scarcely more than a month ago nationalist Ireland regarded elections as an Orange ramp designed to restore Stormont by stealth. Once Dublin and John Hume had been persuaded to travel to all-party talks by a democratic path another difference emerged: each party preferred a separate path. The Ulster Unionists wanted to use Westminster constituencies, the DUP and SDLP advocated variants of the European election practice of treating the Province as one constituency.

Each side dressed up its case with arguments of principle but it was obvious they were manoeuvring for simple party advantage. Westminster elections play to the Ulster Unionists' strength and the European poll rewards the longer-serving, high-profile leaders of the SDLP and DUP.

Churchill observed that democracy was the worst way of choosing politicians, apart from all the rest. The same could be said of these elections. If the Government had adopted any of the proffered systems it would instantly have alienated a significant section of mainstream Ulster opinion and imperilled progress. It had to devise a scheme whose parentage was, at the least obscure, at best various. The resulting compromise delights no party but it passes the important tests.

The system seems complex but it will be simple for the voters. They will vote once, for the party they wish to represent them in negotiations on Ulster's future. Voting by constituency should help smaller parties whose support is geographically concentrated, such as the Alliance or the fringe Unionists who speak for the loyalist paramilitaries. The top-up 20 elected from the Province's ten biggest parties should maximise inclusiveness.

Not only will the forum grant democratic legitimacy to those who should negotiate a stable settlement in Ulster, it will also exist as a body in which Northern Ireland's politicians can learn new habits. Nationalist fears of the forum evolving into another Protestant parliament should be allayed by the two-year maximum life-span laid down.

Talks should follow elections almost immediately, but it looks gravely unlikely that they will be all-party. Without an IRA ceasefire there will be no invitation to Sinn Fein. Ministers insist that, even with an unequivocal ceasefire, there will be no progress without a commitment from the republicans to pursue their goals by exclusively peaceful methods and tackle decommissioning. There is already pressure to dilute these conditions. It must be resisted.

Ulster's future should be decided by those prepared to compromise and accept the will of the Province's people. Republicans still show no sign of accepting basic principles of democratic consent. The best response to terror is a determination by democrats not to weaken, but to learn to work together. The forum is the place to start and these elections are the best available route there.

THE POLITICIAN AND THE COW

A modern morality tale for adults and children

However carefully chosen the sombre words of ministers and government scientists, the alarm about beef safety is growing. The Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee will not decide until the weekend whether it is safe to allow children to eat beef products. But more schools throughout the country have taken hamburgers off the menu. In Brussels, veterinary experts are meeting today to see how the European Union can protect its consumers." But already France, Germany and Belgium have imposed bans on all British beef. Their action is illegal; but their response entirely understandable. On this side of the Channel, British consumers are about to inflict on the £4 billion beef industry one of the most devastating boycotts to hit a staple food.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, is even contemplating the wholesale slaughter of Britain's cattle in an attempt to rid the country of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Scientists who have long raised their voices against government complacency are now listened to with respect and trepidation. Professor Richard Lacey suggests that up to 500,000 people may develop Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Sales of beef now look set for a precipitous decline. Farmers face ruin at the weekend auctions; thousands may go bankrupt.

It is a terrible tale of woe which is not over yet. Mere reassurance will not halt the immediate stampede away from beef. There is no reassurance while herds are infected and even the smallest possibility exists of transmission to human beings. Popular feeling is fickle but the Government must steel itself for a castastrophe in British agriculture. If all herds had to be destroyed, full compensation for 11 million cattle would run to about £14 billion, with perhaps a further £6 billion for the loss of beef-related jobs. Beef would be scarce for about five years; imported dairy products would be prohibitively expensive.

The Government may balk at such a step. The question of compensation itself would be controversial. Even allowing that the Government must be held responsible because it approved the feeding methods which allowed BSE to be passed through the ruminant food chain, analogous industrial arguments for tax-payer bale-outs receive scant shrift. Builders have not been so generously compensated for ripping out asbestos, even though the Government approved it as a suitable fire-resistant material.

Agriculture has to be shown to be different. But how different? Farmers are the stewards of the countryside; their survival is essential to our enjoyment of our own land; although wartime ideas that Britain needs autarky in food production no longer hold water, farming is still an essential industry. These arguments hold force but not as much force as once they did. Agriculture needs to be weaned from dependence on subsidies, European intervention prices and other modern trends which have dmaged farmers reputations, not least for stewardship of the countryside.

Movement to freer markets is needed. But that movement needs to be gradual and sure if it is to gain common consent. Political realities alone — obvious from a look at the electoral map — shows that no politician dare offend the farming lobby by precipitately denying support.

Any strategy to counter BSE and future crises of the same kind must deal with the power of the farming lobby. In many ways it is the very success of British agriculture, its arrogance in believing that it can go against nature in feeding cattle, that has so contributed to the BSE catastrophe. The Ministry of Agriculture has itself been too long too influenced by the food producers. The independent voice of consumers has been too weak. Humility must inform the tough decisions ahead. The Government and the country have paid a high price for hubris.

THE PIGEON HAS LANDED

Why the VAT-man is a spoilsport

There was first the mystery thief of Trafalgar Square who crammed hundreds of pigeons into his cardboard box, destined for we know not what end. Now, in another cruel blow to the pigeon *monde*, a Customs and Excise tribunal in Bristol has ruled that pigeon racing is not a "sport": it is, instead, a mere "hobby". Members of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association will, as a result, have to pay VAT on their annual subscriptions, netting about £30,000 a year for the taxman.

We do not like this one bit. Pigeon racing is a sport, and to class it as a hobby or pastime — lumping it with Pooh-sticks, tiddlywinks or table-football — is but to traduce heedlessly an ancient art. There are few creatures more sophisticated than the homing pigeon, and the bond between bird and trainer is often akin to that between clever child and proud parent.

There are important questions that we feel obliged to raise. Can the killjoy tribunal have been unaware that pigeons were raced at the time of the fifth Egyptian dynasty? Did its members know that the Sultan of Baghdad established a pigeon post system in the 12th century AD, and that Genghis Khan — known as much for his love of pigeons as for his hatred of other living things — used just such a system to link one bloody corner of his empire to another?

And did the tribunal really expect a sympathetic response from *The Times*? After all, our relationship with the homing pigeon is a warm and affectionate one, and goes back to the Franco-Prussian War of 1870. During the harsh siege of Paris, communications between the French capital and Printing House Square were cut off more completely than they were even during the Napoleonic Wars. By an ingenious combination of hot-air balloons ("windbags" as they were then called) and carrier pigeons, news travelled to London to be printed — and then travelled back to Paris, reduced to microscopic size, to be read by projection onto a screen.

The VAT-slapped racing pigeons of today belong to that noble line which once took *The Times* to war-locked Paris: the tribunal, whose sense of poetry is small, clearly does not appreciate this. And its mean-spirited decision, predictably, could lead to yet more problems with Brussels. The trouble, fortunately, would not arise with the European Commission this time, although there can be no guarantees in this business. It would arise, instead, with that other renowned body whose headquarters are in the Belgian capital — the Fédération Colombophile International. British pigeon racers: take your case to pigeon-loving Brussels. Unite! You have nothing to lose but your VAT.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Dangers of BSE link with humans

From Professor Emeritus Ivor H. Mills

Sir, Yesterday's announcement by the Government that the strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in the young people and farmers who died of the disease in recent years is a new one (reports, March 21) must revive the worries that CJD represents a trans-species infection by BSE from cattle to humans. The much faster fall in the number of BSE cattle slaughtered per month will not allay these fears.

Although those of us who gave evidence to the Select Committee on Agriculture in 1990 must regret that we were not able to make the case forceful enough to persuade the Government to take much more rigid measures to safeguard the population, the accent now must be firstly to try to fathom how they were infected and secondly to decide on the essential steps to prevent unnecessary further infection.

The oral route of infection with prion protein diseases, such as scrapie and CJD, requires a heavy infection which could come from the nervous system or the lymphoid tissues, especially in made-up meat products. How then did the farmers get infected by caring for cattle bearing BSE?

In giving evidence to the committee in 1990 Dr Helen Grant stressed the risks from opening the skulls of affected animals and spraying parts of infected brain over the rest of the meat or into the atmosphere that the abattoir workers were inhaling. Equally, if the farmers fed the meat and bone meal to their cattle, the dust that such food produces could have been breathed in by the farmers and caused the infection.

From now on the brains of calves under six months should not be available for consumption by man or animals. Meat and bone meal should not be allowed to be made from any cattle or flocks of sheep or goats known to have scrapie. Such stocks which are available should not be used to feed any animals or birds. Destruction of all offal from cattle and sheep should be in such a manner that it cannot get into the environment — eg, it should not be buried where rats or other animals can get at it and run the risk of spreading the abnormal prion throughout the wild animal population.

It still seems to me that muscle meat ("a cut off the joint") is safe to eat if strict precautions are taken to prevent contamination. Made-up meat dishes will still be highly suspect unless one can be certain they are made from safe muscle meat.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR H. MILLS,
University of Cambridge
Clinical School,
Department of Surgery,
Douglas House,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Trumpington Road, Cambridge.
March 21.

From Ms Sara Starkey

Sir, We are told it is best to breast-feed our babies, thus immunising them with our antibodies to help protect them in the first months of life. We are also told, while breast-feeding, not to take alcohol, smoke or consume unnecessary medication and drugs, as this will taint our breast milk.

We now have a panic (rightly, I believe) over a connection between BSE and CJD through the eating of beef. As farmers can milk cows until the day a cow is diagnosed with BSE, surely the Government and the media should be further investigating the possibility of a link between the consumption of cow's milk and other dairy products and BSE/CJD. Or is such a link too inconvenient and too awful to contemplate?

Yours etc,
SARA STARKEY,
12a Ashburnham Road,
Tonbridge, Kent.

From Mr R. M. Pickering

Sir, Could there be a clearer illustration of why the public does not trust politicians than the Government's handling of BSE?

Yours etc,
ROBERT PICKERING,
31 Argyll Road, W8.
March 21.

Lottery dreams

From Mr Peter Scott

Sir, Tim Congdon (article, March 15; letters, March 21) is mistaken in contrasting the dream of winning the lottery with the Thatcherite "virtues of thrift and hard work".

The prospect of something for nothing has been a characteristic of government policy for the last 16 years: the sale of council houses at below market prices, the windfall profits from privatisation, the desire for tax-cuts, the creation of unemployment and insecurity with the resulting expansion of the dependency culture.

The lottery is not a denial of Thatcherism; it is its apotheosis.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SCOTT,
24 Cefn Coed Avenue, Cardiff.

Business letters, page 27

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Divorce law: good intentions and lessons of experience

From Baroness Young and others

Sir, We were disappointed by the letters from Lord Carr and Lord Elton and from the Bishop of Worcester (March 18) concerning the Family Law Bill. They fail to take account of some of the key points that were raised during the lengthy proceedings in the House of Lords.

Above all they fail to recognise that fault is not to blame for so-called "quickie" divorces, but rather the special procedure introduced in 1977 under a statutory instrument. This cut the time between decree nisi and decree absolute from six months to six weeks, so encouraging people to allege fault.

In Northern Ireland, where there is no special procedure, the majority of divorces are on the basis of two or five years' separation, and there is no clamour to change their law. In Scotland as recently as 1989 the Scottish Law Commission recommended a retention of a fault-based system, and their divorce rate is lower than in England and Wales.

The Bishop of Worcester's description of the Bill as putting "marriage and the family at the centre" beggars belief. The "no-fault" experience in other countries shows that it has increased the divorce rate. The most thorough and detailed American study to date showed that no-fault divorce led to a significant increase in the divorce rate of between 15 per cent and 25 per cent.

We believe that the same factors that operated there could well lead to a comparable increase in this country. Similar evidence is becoming available from Australia. It should come as a warning, and not a surprise, that almost a quarter of US states are considering Bills to repeal their no-fault divorce laws.

When the "no-fault" provision is coupled with the provision to allow a divorce at the end of a year, even against the wishes of one of the parties — without any reason being given except the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage — young people in particular will see this as divorce on demand, and hardly an example to set to the next generation.

With today's report that the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys expects a further increase in the percentage of marriages ending in divorce, we hope that Conservative colleagues in the Commons will amend this flawed Bill to promote the institution of marriage. The Conservative Party has always believed in the traditional family, and the institution of marriage. It is time for it to live up to its beliefs.

Yours faithfully,
YOUNG,
JEFFREY ARCHER,
GRIFFITHS of FFORESTFACH,
House of Lords.
March 20.

From the Principal of St Anne's College, Oxford

Sir, The present debate on divorce reform (letters, March 8, 18) has been to some extent invalidated by a lack of appreciation of the gap that always opens up between family law on the statute book and its effect in practice. For example, judging by precedent, the one-year waiting period is hardly likely to amount to a genuine opportunity for reflection because the pressure to reach the required financial settlements within it will itself be an embittering and terminal experience in those cases where there is any money or property to divide.

The start of the year will also provide an opportunity for (usually) the wife to seek an order to oust her husband from the home, a move which is tactically advantageous under our ancillary relief principles and will be facilitated by the domestic violence part of the Family Law Bill. An ouster order will effectively scotch the prospects for reconciliation or second thoughts.

No-fault divorce originated in California in 1969 and has spread to all 50 American states. Just like our proposals, they had the best of intentions, and they all have a cooling-off period of six to 12 months and mediation for children's issues. The results have been a rise in divorce, the destruction of any residual power to bargain and delay divorce on the part of the spouse who does not want it, and continuing damage to children.

No-fault divorce in the US is widely recognised as having become divorce on demand. Several American states now have plans to repeal no-fault divorce and to return to marriage with obligations. It is ironic that we are seemingly about to enact a divorce law that has been tried and found to fail in its objectives in the US.

Yours sincerely,
R. L. DEECH, Principal,
St Anne's College, Oxford.

From the Director and Chief Executive of the NSPCC

Sir, The NSPCC welcomes the intention of the Family Law Bill to reduce family breakdown and save marriages. The Bill will provide an invaluable opportunity for couples to consider their difficulties and for saving their relationship. This can only be good for the children.

We recognise that all families are different and that decisions about how long a period of reflection between initial application and the granting of a divorce is always going to be controversial and difficult. We do, however, take the view that on balance a 12-month period should be sufficient for a couple to decide whether or not the marriage can be saved.

We know that the disruption caused by divorce can severely limit the parents' capacity to care for their children, and we believe that any longer period would unnecessarily extend the duration of uncertainty and insecurity for the child. A year is a very long time in the life of a child, both developmentally and psychologically.

Yours sincerely,
JIM HARDING,
Director and Chief Executive,
The National Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Children,
42 Curtain Road, EC2.
March 20.

Unrest in Bahrain

From Sir Steven Runciman

Sir, On March 15 you reported an outrage in Bahrain, where an Indian restaurant was destroyed by fire and several workers killed in the blaze. By linking the incident to violence from Shia Muslims you apparently imply that it was caused by resentment at the lack of Western-style democracy in that country.

While it is difficult to see how the cause of democracy is helped by the massacre of six innocent Indians, most people familiar with the Gulf know that the unrest in Bahrain is due to agents from Islamic Shia fundamentalists sent from Iran by a government whose propagandists have realised that complaints that democracy does not exist in Bahrain will win sympathy for their cause from the media in Britain and the United States.

Bahrain is chosen by the Iranians as a suitable target for their imperialism because, while the ruling family there belongs to the Sunni persuasion, the majority of its citizens are Shia. Most of them have lived contentedly for generations under the benevolent and tolerant rule of the al-Khalifa dynasty; others have come over more recently, to escape from the authoritarian government in Iran.

They know themselves to be fortunate in living in a country where there is no income tax, where food and housing are subsidised and most medical treatment is absolutely free and which maintains the old Muslim tradition of allowing every inhabitant to have personal access to the Ruler.

When I last visited Bahrain, earlier this year, I was impressed by the lack of poverty and the general contentment of its people. It is sad that the cause and importance of the recent incidents there should be misinterpreted by the media in this country and go uncorrected by the authorities; this is already beginning to damage the popularity of the British in Bahrain. It would be tragic were Britain to lose the friendship of her most loyal and generous ally in the Muslim world.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN RUNCIMAN,
Elshieshields,
Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.
March 16.

Musician of fun

From Mr J. M. Macmillan

Sir, Your obituary of Lady Read (March 15) did fine justice to her musicality and personality but to my mind did not completely capture the tremendous fun and adventure of being involved in her musical enterprises.

The first revived Hovingham Festival in the early 1950s at Hovingham Hall, North Yorkshire, was preceded by great bustle and excitement, and for a young boy it seemed the most sophisticated happening imaginable. The performance of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, which she staged in the temple above Rievaulx Abbey, was so moving that even now it is easy to feel again the romance and tragedy.

My most enduring memory of Margaret Read was her attendance at Mass at Ampleforth. Because the Catholic Church did not recognise her marriage to Sir Herbert, whose wife was still alive, she was "living in sin" and therefore could not receive Holy Communion. But there she knelt every Sunday.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES MACMILLAN,
Curling Tye Cottage,
Woodham Walter,
Maldon, Essex.
March 17.

Taiwan sovereignty

From Mr S. Y. Lee

Sir, When Taiwan's sovereignty is discussed as in Jonathan Mirsky's report today, it seems to me that Taiwan is just like a lost property waiting for someone to claim its ownership. I would like to point out that 21 million people live there and the sovereignty of Taiwan surely belongs to them.

Yours faithfully,
SHIUN YONG LEE (Chairman),
The Taiwanese Association in the
United Kingdom,
21 Welldon Crescent,
Harrow, Middlesex.
March 19.

No Smoking Day

From Mr Clive Turner

Sir, Lady Hillhouse, Chair of No Smoking Day 1996, tells us (letter, March 19) that this annual event is not state-run, but is an independent charity. Maybe, but the main component parts of that charity are unquestionably supported by the taxpayer. ASH, one of the prime movers, receives substantial government funding, and who does Lady Hillhouse suppose provides resources for the Health Education Authority?

In any case, the prevailing motivation of the 11 million ex-smokers in this country has not been any special day, but principally the long-standing government greed in imposing tobacco tax increases, now providing over £9 billion a year, or £18,000 a minute, for the Exchequer.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE TURNER
(Executive Director,
Industry Affairs),
Tobacco Manufacturers' Association,
55 Tufton Street, Westminster, SW1.
March 19.

Housing repairs

From Mr Allan Gore

Sir, Judge Holman (letter, March 16) is right. The combined effect of the recent brake on costs imposed by the Court of Appeal and of the latest increase in the financial limit of the small claims jurisdiction of the county court will be to bar some of the poorest and most needy members of society from legal advice and representation in the pursuit of housing repair claims.

Such cases turn on some of the most labyrinthine, obscure and complex laws of the land. I ask Lords Woolf (civil justice review) and Mackay (legal aid review), is this access to justice?

Yours sincerely,
ALLAN GORE,
12 Kings Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
March 16.

English syllabus

From the Chief Executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority

Sir, Far from marginalising Shakespeare, as Susan Elkin suggests (Education, March 15; letter, March 19), GCSE English syllabuses will ensure that, for the first time, all pupils are required to submit work on a Shakespeare play.

This is not the case at present. Neither the English nor the English Literature GCSE requirements insist that Shakespeare is examined. In some syllabuses no more than a sonnet, or an extract from a play, is required.

The new GCSE syllabuses aim to preserve balance in the English curriculum. This means demanding high standards in grammar, syntax, spelling and punctuation, and placing a new emphasis on the English literary heritage. It also means introducing pupils to the richness of writing in English from around the world, and to different types of non-fiction.

Pupils need a critical appreciation of great literature. They also need a level of literacy that will allow them to function effectively in further studies or in work. The strengthened rules for GCSE will help to meet these goals.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS TATE,
Chief Executive,
School Curriculum and
Assessment Authority,
Newcombe House,
45 Notting Hill Gate, W11.
March 19.

Workless in the wings

From Mrs Lisa England

Sir, Whilst having every sympathy with the plight of "resting" actors deprived of unemployment benefit (report, March 19), I was astonished to read that 25 per cent of Equity members (some 10,000) had not worked at all during the last year. This suggests that the profession is oversubscribed.

If you enter an oversubscribed profession, must you not take responsibility for the luxury of making that choice? Should you not try supporting yourself in some other occupation, whilst waiting to exercise your skills, rather than expect the diminishing number of taxpayers to support you?

Yours faithfully,
LISA ENGLAND,
84a Oakwood Court, W14.
March 19.

Couch potatoes

From Mrs Jennifer Radice

Sir, "Research shows that six out of ten men and seven out of ten women spend too much time sitting around" (report, March 20).

I collect "research has shown" news items. This one is a gem. How much is too much? How did the researchers classify "sitting around"? Is one exempted from the implied condemnation if one is writing letters, embroidering *petit point* or even reading *The Times*?

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER RADICE,
10 Middleton Road, NW11.
March 21.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 21: His Excellency Mr J.Y. Pillay was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Republic of Singapore in London.

Mrs Pillay was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

His Excellency Señor Herrán Errazuriz was received in farewell audience by The Queen and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Chile to the Court of St James's.

Sir Tim Lankester (former Permanent Secretary, Department for Education and Employment) was received by Her Majesty.

Lady Millar was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Hon Barry McFadzean was received by The Queen and delivered upon the Insignia of the Order of the Thistle worn by his father, the late Lord McFadzean.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 21: The Princess Royal today visited Worcestershire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester (Sir Thomas Dunne).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, SENSE — the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, this morning visited the SENSE shop, 4 Blackwell Street, Swan Centre, Kidderminster.

The Princess Royal, President, later visited the Save the Children Fund Shop, 18 Pump Street, Worcester.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this afternoon visited Action Apparal Limited, 11-12 Palmers Road, East Moons Moat, Redditch.

The Princess Royal later visited the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill National Health Service Trust, Yorkhill, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Glasgow (Mr Thomas Dingwall, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 21: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning received the polar explorer, Mr David Hempleman-Adams, whose next expedition will raise money for the Trusts.

His Royal Highness was present when The Prince's Trust received its "Investor in People" Award from the Central London Training and Enterprize Council.

The Prince of Wales, President, Royal Naval Film Corporation, this afternoon attended the Annual General Meeting and Luncheon at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, later attended a meeting at St James's Palace to plan the Grant Thornton initiative to support the business advice given to young entrepreneurs helped by the Trust.

The Prince of Wales this evening held a Concert and Dinner to celebrate the Eightieth Birthday of the Lord Menuhin at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 21: The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Action on Smoking and Health, was present this afternoon at a Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Professor Charles Fletcher (formerly President of Action on Smoking and Health) which was held in St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 21: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, today received Lieutenant-General Sir Jeremy Reilly on relinquishing Colonelcy of the Regiment and Brigadier David Biggart on assuming the appointment.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, today visited the Department of Orthotics, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire (Mr Hugo Brunner).

Royal engagements

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, will visit the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, at 10.10; and will visit the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, at 12.15.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Save the Children Fund, and will visit St Mellon's Estate project, St Mellon's Enterprise Centre, 31 Crickhowell Road, at 10.45; will attend the Women in Wales luncheon at the City Hall, Cardiff, at 12.30; and will visit the fund shop at Unit 8, Beaufort Court, Monmouth, at 2.50;

The Duchess of Kent will open the Ferens Building, Hull University, at noon; will open the Holderness Community Health Trust's new day care centre, Park Street, at 1.45; and will visit Wansbeck Primary School, Warning Grove, Longhill Estate, at 3.25.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.
The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

The Sir Leon Bagrit Centre

The Twelfth Bagrit Evening was held on Thursday, March 21, at The Sir Leon Bagrit Centre, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. The lecture "GP Lead Health Care and the Role of Information Technology" was delivered by Professor Brian Jarman, Head of the Department of General Practice, St Mary's Hospital, London. A dinner was held afterwards in the atrium of The Centre. Among those present were:

Sir Peter Baxendell, Sir Austin Bide, Baroness Brigstocke, Sir Matthew and Lady Farrer, Professor Sir Leslie Turnburg and Professor Richard Kitney (Director of the Centre).

School news

Harrow School

1996 Scholarships

The following have been awarded:

Scholarships: H.R.S. Montgomery, Summer Fields; P.W.E. Massey, Summer Fields; C.J. Coronna, Milbourne Lodge; H.J.M. Seligman, Colet Court; H.P.J.J. Warren, Caldicott.

Exhibitions: J.J. Stacey, The Hall; A.D. Lusher, Cheam Hawtreys; R.H. Tse, St Bede's; H.G. Burrett, Wellesley House; C.H.C. Gordon, Ludgrove.

Music Scholarships: S.S.M.B. Thomson, Christ Church Cathedral School; A.C. Eadon, King's College School; C.P. Collins, Verulam School; R.E. Jacobs, Llandaff Cathedral School.

Music Exhibitions: G.T. Murphy, The Beacon, Amersham; T. Lochotinan, Papplewick.

Art Scholarship: N.J. Strachan, Heath Mount.

Knebworth seeks £12m to repair faulty towers

By John Young

KNEBWORTH HOUSE, the great Gothic palace in Hertfordshire where Charles Dickens acted, Winston Churchill painted, Edward Bulwer-Lytton wrote *The Last Days of Pompeii*, and pop groups including the Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd and the Beach Boys played to huge outside audiences, is in trouble.

A report published yesterday calculates that it needs an endowment of £12 million to ensure its future upkeep. The most practicable, but also the most controversial, way of raising the money would be to build housing or a business park on the estate which is designated green belt.

Knebworth was purchased for £800 in 1490 by Sir Robert Lytton. He began building the house early in the 16th century and it has since been widely altered and extended.

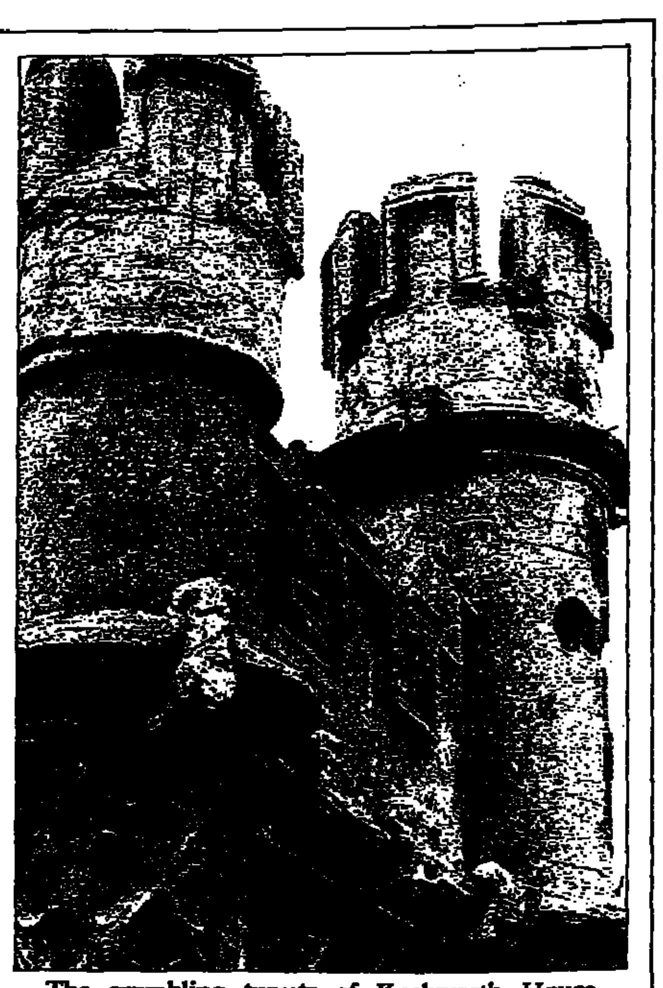
Its features include a Jacobean banqueting hall, a Victorian state drawing room, and an Edwardian dining parlour designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens who also supervised the layout of the gardens. In 1984 its owner, Lord Cobbold, made it over to a charitable trust but continues to live with his family in part of the building. A long-term programme of repair and renovation had been started in 1971 but there is still a substantial backlog. Many of the present difficulties are the result of 19th-century attempts to modernise the house.

The report examines a number of options including converting the house to an educational establishment, offices or hospital; transforming the grounds into a theme park; and an appeal for funds from the National Lottery.

However, John Hoy, general manager of Knebworth, indicated yesterday that none of these was likely to provide a satisfactory solution. He said the present 130,000 visitors would have to increase fifteen to twentyfold to supply the revenue needed.

The house, although lavishly furnished, contained no outstanding works of art, Mr Hoy said. "If we had a *Three Graces* or a Canaletto, we would have sold it long ago."

David Morgan, chairman of the trustees, said he was aware of the dilemma for conservationists of allowing the house to decay or sanction building on green belt. But the trustees were determined Knebworth should remain part of the nation's heritage.



The crumbling turrets of Knebworth House which needs £12 million for its future upkeep

Luncheon

The London Institute

The Chairman of the London Institute, Mr Julian E. Markham, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Institute's Headquarters in Davies Street, W1. The guests included:

Mr Bryan Davies, MP, Baroness Blackstone (Master of Birbeck College), Sir Robin Ibbs (Chairman of Lloyds Bank), Mr Alen Webster (British Council), Mr Rodney Fitch and Professor John McKenzie (Rector of the London Institute).

Service dinners

HMS Collingwood

Commodore J. Chadwick, the new Commodore of *HMS Collingwood*, was the guest of honour at a mess guest night dinner held last night in the Wardroom *HMS* Collingwood. Commander J. Blackett presided.

RN College Greenwich

Prince Nicholas Galitzine was the principal guest at a mess guest night dinner held last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Commander I.R. Wellesley-Harding, Commander of the College, presided.

Royal Artillery

The Mayor and Mayoress of Greenwich were present at the Royal Artillery Spring dinner held last night at Woolwich. General Sir Martin Farndale, Master Gunner, St James's Park, presided. Among others present were:

The Norwegian Ambassador and Mrs Vraalsen, Lord and Lady Nolan, Sir Robert and Lady Scott, Sir David and Lady Scott, Sir David and Lady Lees and Major-General and Mrs Jack Deverell.

Liverpool University Air Squadron

Air Vice-Marshal J.R. Day, Air Officer Commanding No 1 Group, Strike Command, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of Liverpool University Air Squadron held last night at RAF Woodvale. Squadron Leader M.J. Murphy presided. The Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University and the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of the Military Education Committee were the principal guests.

Memorial service

Sir Stephen Spender

A service of thanksgiving to celebrate the life and work of Sir Stephen Spender was held on Wednesday at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square. The Rev Nicholas Holtham officiated.

Mr Matthew Spender, son, read the lesson. Mr Ted Hughes, Poet Laureate, Mr Harold Pinter, Professor James Fenton, Professor of Poetry, Oxford University, Miss Jill Balcon and Mr Barry Humphries, son-in-law, read poems written by Sir Stephen. Professor Richard Wollheim gave an address. Among others present were:

Lady Spender (widow), Mrs Barry Humphries (daughter), Mrs Matthew Spender (daughter-in-law), Miss Saskia Spender and Miss Cosima Spender (granddaughters), Mr and Mrs Humphrey Spender (brother and sister-in-law), Miss Christine Spender (sister), Mrs Michael Spender (sister-in-law), Mr and Mrs Philip Spender, Mrs Quentin Spender, Mr Robert Spender, Mr Tom Spender, Isobel Spender, Mr and Mrs C Shelford, Mrs Joanna Schuster, Mrs Rachel Wolf, Baroness Warnock.

The Countess of Avon, the Countess of Longford, the Earl of Gowrie (chairman, Arts Council of England) and the Countess of Gowrie, Viscount and Viscountess Esher, Lord Annan, Lady Bonham Carter, Lady Carrington, Elizabeth Lady Glenconner, Lord and Lady Hollick, Lord Hutchinson of Lullington, QC, and Lady Hutchinson, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, and Lady Jenkins, Lord and Lady Palumbo.

Lord and Lady Quinton, Lord Rothschild, Lord Wyatt of Weeford, Mr Roy Hattersley, MP, Mrs Jeremy Thorpe, Lady Annunziata Asquith, Lady Antonia Pinter, Lady Arabella Stuart, the Hon David Astor, CH, and Mrs Astor, the Hon Sir Steven Runciman, CH, the Hon Emma Tennant, Sir Martyn and the Hon Lady Beckett, Lady Ayer, Sir Isaiah Berlin, OM, and Lady Berlin, Sir Alan and Lady Bowness.

The Rev Professor Owen Chadwick, OM, Lady Gowing, Sir Alec Guinness, CH, Sir Stuart Hampshire, Sir Nicholas and Lady Henderson, Sir Martin Jacomb (chairman, British Council), Sir Claus and Lady Moser, Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, Sir Laurens van der Post, Professor John Bayley and Dame Iris Murdoch, Mr Frank and Lady Katharine Giles, Mrs Drue Heinz, DBE.

Mr and Mrs R Seitz, Grafin von Westphalen, Mrs Alfred Brendel, Professor and Mrs Ronald Dworkin, Mrs T S Eliot, Mrs Xan Fielding, Mr John Golding, Mr and Mrs Paul Johnson, Mr Mark Littman, QC, and Mrs Littman, Mr Henry Vivian-Neal, Mr Nigel Nicolson, Mrs J Edward Sieff, Mr David Sylvester, Mr and Mrs Ed Victor, Mr and Mrs John Wells, Miss Irene Worth, Mrs Frances Partridge, Mr D Pinckney.

Mr and Mrs J Rose, Mrs Nancy Raphael, Mrs Jocelyn Herbert, Professor Stephen Graubard, Miss Hope Wallace, Mr John Whitehead, Mrs Carolyn Gill, Mr John Lock, Mr Michael Holroyd and Miss Margaret Drabble, Mr James Astor, Mr Michael Craig-Martin, Mr Gabriel Carritt, Mr and Mrs Michael Yates, Mr John Anderson, Mrs Natasha Gorky, Mr and Mrs Anthony Curtis, Mr Michael Rubinstein, Mr John Heath-Stubbs, Dr Janet Adam Smith, Mrs Catherine Freeman.

Mr Michael Hamburger, Mrs Geraint Jones, Mr Peter Eyre, Ms Eva Figes, Mr John Walker, Mr Raleigh Trevelyan, Miss C Gibbons, Mr Patrick Trevor-Roper, Dr Harriet Harvey Wood, Professor Hermione Lee, Mr John Kasmin, Mr Giles de la Mare, Mrs Quentin Bell, Dr Tom Faber, Mr Bruno Wollheim, Professor John Weightman, Mr Charles Osborne, Mr Alfred Alvarez, Mrs Charles Moore.

Mr Frank Tuohy, Mr Michael Horovitz, Mr John Dewe Mathews, Mr Michael Dibdin, Mr Andrew Motion, Dr Caroline Grigson, Mr Mark Amery, Miss Sophie Hicks, Mr and Mrs John Rety, Mr Martin Amis, Mr Anthony Ellis, Mr John Fleming, Mr Wayne Sleep, Mrs Shusha Guppy, Miss Gabrielle Daye, Mr William Mostyn-Owen, Mr Ian Franklin, Mr Tony Garrett, Mr Peter Levi, Mrs Eunice Robinson.

Mrs Anne Wollheim, Mr Kieron Winn, Mr Barry Bloomfield, Mr David W Astor, Mr Anthony Maggs, Mr and Mrs Andrew Sinclair, Mr and Mrs Piers Paul Read, Mr and Mrs Anthony Thwaite, Professor Eric Hobsbawm, Mr Simon Seligman, Mr Nicholas Ayer, Mrs June Pryn, Mr Christopher Potter, Mrs J Kilmartin, Mr Patrick Roberts, Mr and Mrs Bernard Williams, Mr Charles MacCarthy, Mrs Stanley Johnson, Ms Janet Daley.

Dr P Woodcock, Mr Ian Angus, Miss Polly Toynbee, Mr Rupert Wollheim, Mrs Margot Walmsley, Mrs Charles Gimpel, Mr Graham Greene, Mr Robert Kee, Mr John Gross, Mr Jon Stallworthy, Mr Stephen Stuart-Smith, Mr Marco Livingstone, Mr John Goldsmith, Mr Philip Ziegler, Mr and Mrs Frank Auerbach, Mr Anthony Sampson, Mrs Claire Tomalin, Professor Dan Jacobson, Mr Alan Ross, Mr John Byrne, Mr D J Enright, Mr Christopher Nobbs, Mr and Mrs R Stone.

Mr Terry Waite, Mrs T C Coltman, Mr J Fuller, Professor Karl Miller, Mr John Amis, Mrs Maureen Kermode, Miss Marina Warner, Professor Samuel Hynes, Mrs Humphrey Brooke, Mr Peter Ackroyd, Miss Naomi Lewis, Mr Adam Victor, Mr Richard Brain, Mr Max Nicholson, Mr Hugh Honour, Mr David Plant, Miss Luch Ellmann, Mr David Cory.

Mr Matthew Evans (chairman, Faber and Faber) and Mrs Evans with Mr John Bodley (archivist), Ms Joanna Mackle (publishing director) and other members of the company; Mrs Ursula Owen (editor and chief executive, Index on Censorship), Ms Gwenda David (Viking, New York), Miss Elizabeth Paterson (International PEN), Miss Josephine Pullein-Thompson (English Centre of International PEN), Miss Julia Abel-Smith (Royal Society of Literature).

Ms Kate Pool (Society of Authors), Mr Anthony Howard (also representing *The Times*), Mr Geordie Greig (literary editor, *The Sunday Times*), Mr John Coldstream (books editor, *The Daily Telegraph*), Ms Jan Dalley (literary editor, *The Independent on Sunday*), Mr Peter Forbes (editor, *The Poetry Review*), Mr Eddie Linden (editor, *Aquarius*), Mr Alan Ross (editor, *London Magazine*), Mr Anthony Smith (president, Magdalen College, Oxford), Dr Helen Cooper (University College, Oxford).

Mr John Rayner (Gresham's School), Mr Jeremy Lewison (Tate Gallery), Mr David Mitchinson (Henry Moore Foundation), Ms Erica Davies (Freud Museum), Mrs Helen McPhail (Wilfred Owen Association), Mr Stuart Hibberdine (The Eyre Estate), Ms Margaret Quass (UNESCO), Mr David Lea (representing the TUC), Mr P E Varea (Spanish Republican Associations).

Reception

Trinity College of Music

To mark the 100th AGM of the incorporation of Trinity College of Music, the Chairman of the Board, Mr Paul Strang, held a reception yesterday at the College's new Academic Studies Centre and Library. A concert by the Trinity College of Music Sinfonia was held afterwards at St James's, Sussex Gardens, during which Honorary Fellowships were conferred by the former Chairman of Board, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, on Sir Michael Bishop, Mr John Davey, Ms Louise Honeyman, Ms Kathryn McDowell and Mr John Woolrich.

Dinners

Carlton Club

Lord Wakeham, Chairman of the Carlton Club, was the host last night at a dinner held at the club in honour of the ministers who have exceded the record for continuous service in office previously held by Lloyd George. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, MP, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, MP, Mr Antony Newton, MP, and Viscount Long were the principal guests.

Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave a dinner last night at the Mansion House in honour of the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the Livery Companies of the City of London and their ladies. Some Members of the Court of Aldermen, the Sheriffs, the Chief Commoner and some members of the Court of Common Council and High Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts also attended. The Lord Mayor, the Master of the Mercers' Company and the Master of the Grocers' Company were the speakers. Among others present were:

Sir Peter Studd, Mrs Dermot Studd, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Portsmouth, Professor Sir Norman and Lady Browse, the Master Cutler in Hallamshire, Mr and Mrs John Gough, Dr and Mrs David Hughes and Major and Mrs Barneby Cockcroft.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A. Anthony
and Miss E.V.de St.H. Burn

The engagement is announced between James Alan, elder son of Captain Alan Anthony, of Thailand, and Mrs Susan Anthony, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and Emma Valentine de St Hilaire, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs Loic Burn, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr J.C.M. Atkinson
and Miss A.C.R. Blount

The engagement is announced between Jonathon, younger son of the late Mr Colin Atkinson and of Mrs Shirley Atkinson, of Glastonbury, Somerset, and Alice, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Blount, of Cley, Norfolk.

Mr J.A. Baker-Cresswell
and Miss S.C. Merrett

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Baker-Cresswell, of Bamburgh, Northumberland, and Sophie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Merrett, of Kendal, Cumbria.

Mr C.R. Bennett
and Miss Z.A. Campbell

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Bennett, of Hanslope, Buckinghamshire, and Zephyrine, daughter of the Hon Robin Campbell, of Bough Beech, Kent, and the Hon Mrs Cecilia Campbell, of Fulham, London.

Mr M.A. Biddle
and Lady Arabella Erskine

The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs Donald Biddle, of Milton on Stour, Dorset, and Arabella, younger daughter of the Earl and Countess of Buchan, of Newnham, Hampshire.

Mr N.D. Dudman
and Miss K.J.N. Thwaites

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Maurice Dudman, of Bristol, and Juliette, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Thwaites, of Hawkchurch, Devon.

Mr A.J. Fowler
and Miss C.A. Chilton

The engagement is announced between John, son of the late Mr Peter Fowler and of Mrs Molly Fowler, of Bramham, Yorkshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Chilton, of Wakefield, Yorkshire.

Mr S.L. Green
and Miss C.M. Dibble

The engagement is announced between Simon Lewis, son of the late Mr and Mrs Michael Green, of Hendon, NW4, and Caroline Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Dibble, of Farnham, Surrey.

Mr J.C. Harries
and Miss V.M.K. Metters

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs T.J. Harries, of Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire, and Katharine, daughter of Dr and Mrs J.S. Metters, of Wimbledon, London, SW19.

Mr L.R. Horobin
and Miss C. Spicer

The engagement is announced between Laurence, son of the late Mr Edward Horobin and of Mrs Marlene Horobin, of West Wickham, Kent, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Spicer, of Oxshott, Surrey.

The Hon B.J. Howard
and Miss L.F. Kitson

The engagement is announced between Barnaby Howard, of Orange Park, USA, and Linda Kitson, of Onslow Square, London. The marriage will take place later on this year in the USA.

Mr M.A. Rolt
and Miss A.K. Smith

The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Dr and Mrs Donald Rolt, of Washington DC, and Alison, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Lionel Smith, of Fleet, Hampshire.

Mr R.W. Townsend
and Miss L.M.C. Winterton

The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Neil Townsend, of Narborough, Leicestershire, and Louisa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Winterton, of Loddiswell, Devon.

Legal appointments

Mr John Francis Temple **Bayliss** has been appointed an Assistant Judge Advocate General.

Ms Mary Jane Stormont **Mowat**, Mr Anthony Robert Gall **Scott-Gall** and Mr Peter Reginald **Cowell** have been appointed Circuit Judges to the South Eastern Circuit.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Anthony Van Dyck, painter, Antwerp, 1599; William Pulteney, Earl of Bath, statesman, London, 1684; Edward Moore, writer, Abingdon, Berkshire, 1712; Adam Sedgwick, geologist and dalesman, Dent, Yorkshire, 1785; William I, King of Prussia 1861-88, German Emperor 1871-88, Berlin, 1797; Carl Rosa, founder of the opera company bearing his name, Hamburg, 1842; "Chico" Marx, actor and comedian, New York, 1891; Nicholas Monsarrat, novelist, Liverpool, 1910; Gerard Hoffnung, artist, humorist and musician, Berlin, 1925.

DEATHS: Jean-Baptiste Lully, composer, Paris, 1687; Jonathan Edwards, theologian, Princeton, 1758; John Canton, scientist, 1772; Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, poet, Weimar, Germany, 1832; Thomas Hughes, politican and author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, Brighton, 1896; Frederick William Farrar, writer of school stories and Dean of Canterbury 1895-1903, Canterbury, 1903; Michael Todd, film magnate, killed in an air crash, New Mexico, 1958.

Because of a drought the American side of the Niagara Falls ran short of water, 1903.

The first cabs with taxi meters began operating in London, 1907.

Dachau concentration camp, a former First World War munitions factory near Munich, was opened, 1933.

The Arab League was founded in Cairo, 1945.

Birthdays today

Lord Alport, 84; Miss Laraine Ashton, fashion models agent, 50; Mr George Benson, singer, 53; Mr R.A. Bethell, Lord-Lieutenant of Humberside, 74; Viscount Bolingbroke, 69; Mrs Betty Callaway, ice-skating trainer, 68; Miss Sheila Cameron, QC, Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury, 62; Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling, 77; Mr Philip Ely, former president, Law Society, 60; Mr Brian Hanrahan, broadcaster, 47; Mr D.C. Ingman, former chairman, British Waterways Board, 68; the Very Rev Lawrence Jackson, Provost Emeritus of Blackburn, 70; Professor Harry Kay, former Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University, 77; Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, composer, 48; M Marcel Marceau, mime artist, 73; Mr Alan Opie, baritone, 51; Mr Alan G. Perrin, former governor, Reserve Bank of Malawi, 75; Mr C.S. Pick, publisher, 79; Sir Lynden Pindling, former Prime Minister of The Bahamas, 66; Sir Bryan Roberts, QC, 73; Mr Paul Schockemöhle, showjumper, 51; Mr William Shatner, actor, 65; Mr Stephen Sondheim, composer, 66; Professor Sir Colin Spedding, chairman, Council of Science and Technology Institutes, 71; Lord Stokes, 82; Mr Leslie Thomas, author, 65; Admiral Sir Richard Thomas, 64; Professor Sir Leslie Turnberg, president, Royal College of Physicians, 62; Miss Fanny Waterman, concert pianist and teacher, 76; Professor D. Watson, Director, Brighton University, 47; Miss Priscilla Yates, a former director, Royal Academy of Dancing, 49.

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If you, Lord, should keep accounts of sins who could hold his ground? But with you is forgiveness so that you may be revered.
Psalm 130 : 3, 4 (REB)

ADOPTION

MACKANESS - On 13th March (born 11th March) in Dallas, Texas, to Sharon and Mary, a son, George Robert.

BIRTHS

BABBE - On March 19th at The Portland Hospital, to Mojgan and Pierre, a daughter, Anahita, a sister for François and Pedram.

BOTT - On 21st March, to Carolyn (née De Smith) and Ian, a son, Theodore George, a brother to Alexander and Oliver.

BROOKE - On March 20th 1996, to Katharine wife of Francis, a daughter.

BROWNING - On March 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Amanda (née Kemp) and Ralph, a wonderful son, Harry George.

CROWFOOT - On 16th March, to Samantha (née Todman) and Rupert, a daughter, Daisy Alice.

CROW - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Yoko (née Kumazawa) and Nigel, a handsome son, Oliver Yuuta. A strapping lad at 9lbs 1oz.

DUCK - On 10th March, to Bethan (née Davies) and Jonathan, a daughter, Susannah Rhiannon Alice.

FLANAGAN - On 23rd February at Solihull Hospital, to Denise and Eddie, a daughter, Ceri Louise, a sister for Rory.

GOLFAR - On 20th March at St John and St Elizabeth Hospital, to Patricia (née Carrington) and James, a son, Maximilian Stuart.

GORDON-MACLEOD - On March 12th, to Adrienne and David, a son, Alasdair Elliott Scott, a brother for Kirstine, Serena and Nicholas.

HAYNES - On 6th March, to Liz and Peter, a son, Thomas.

BIRTHS

HILDEBRAND - On March 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Lesley (née Jacobson) and Robert, a beautiful son, Thomas, a brother for Jessica, Nicholas and Katie.

HUGHES - On March 18th 1996, to Gerard and Amorelle, a beautiful daughter, Oonagh Storm Jarvis.

LLOYD - On 16th March at King's College Hospital, London, to Lucy (née Heaton) and Michael, a son, Joseph Michael.

MALLINSON - On March 20th 1996, at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, to Serena (née Everard) and Guy, a son, Jasper Miles Christopher.

MELLA - On March 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Cathy and Joe Mella a special and wonderful son, Christopher Joseph.

MORTIMER - On March 9th 1996, to Katharine (née Leese) and Andrew, a son, Matthew John.

SATCHWELL - On March 8th at Hinsdale, Illinois, to Katy (née Fowler) and Chris, a son, Charles Richard, a brother for James and Victoria.

STRAKER - On March 17th 1996, to Kate (née Murray-Philipson) and Nick, a daughter.

STUBBS - On Tuesday 19th March, at The Whittington Hospital, Highgate, to Anthony and Debbie, a son, Lewis Benjamin, a brother for Ashton and Jake.

DEATHS

AHERN - Sister Kate (Bernardine), Sister of St Anne, former Matron St Teresa's Hospital, Wimbledon, on Tuesday, 19th March 1996, following prolonged illness. Requiem Mass Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon, Tuesday 26th March at 10 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Teresa's Home for the Elderly, Wimbledon.

DEATHS

BOURNE - The Reverend Michael, passed away suddenly at The Royal London Hospital on March 19th. Funeral Mass at All Saints Church, Poplar, on Wednesday March 27th at 10.30 am. No flowers please.

BUCKHAM - On March 20th, Andrew Arthur Macrae Buckham, aged 38 years. Beloved husband of Rebecca and a much loved father of Natasha. Funeral Service at New Alresford Parish Church on Friday 29th March at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Enquiries and donations if desired, to the Royal Marsden Hospital (for Lymphoma Research) c/o Jno. Steel & Son, Chesil House, Winchester (01962 844044).

CHAPMAN - On 20th March Pam (née Davis) of High Wych, Herts., beloved wife of the late Philip, dearest mother of William and dearly loved sister of Eileen, died after illness bravely borne. Sadly missed by many. Funeral at St James's Church, High Wych, at 12.30 pm Wednesday 27th March. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund or St James's Church c/o Daniel Robinson, Funeral Directors, 3 Bullfields, Sawbridgeworth, Herts., tel: (01279) 722476.

CLAYDON - James Claydon, MA, Fellow-Commoner of St Edmund's College, Cambridge, and for many years on the staff of Cambridge University Library, died in Cambridge on 24th February 1996 aged 81 years. A Memorial Service is to be held in the Chapel of St Edmund's College on Saturday 27th April at 2.30 pm.

CLOUSTON - Mary, widow of Dr. Gordon Clouston, died peacefully at home on Wednesday March 20th after a long illness. Supported by loving friends in the surroundings and community they both served. Funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium, Bearsted Road, Maidstone, on Thursday March 28th at 1pm.

DEATHS

CRAWFORD - On March 19th 1996, suddenly at home, aged 79, Maurice Theodore (Mick) Brigadier R.A. (Retired). Beloved husband of the late Pam, dearly loved and missed by his sons Jeremy and Charles, daughters-in-law Libby and Ann, and grandchildren Tom, Helen, Nick and Hugh. Funeral Service at Portchester Crematorium on Thursday March 28th at 1.45 pm. Enquiries to Edward White & Son, 5 South Pallant, Chichester (01243 782136).

DUNVILLE - Eileen Florence Lillie (née Gibbs) died on 19th March aged 79 years at Bethany House, Newmarket, Suffolk after a long illness. Mourned by her only son David. For funeral arrangements Tel: Southgates (01638) 662480.

FINN - On March 20th 1996 peacefully at The Robertson N/H, Godalming, Marion Elise Finn aged 82 years, widow of Dr. Andrew Finn and mother of Nick, Julian and the late Liz. Private cremation at Guildford Crematorium on Monday March 25th at 4 pm. Memorial Service at Christ Church, Shamley Green, on Thursday March 28th. Further enquiries to J. Gorringe & Son Funeral Directors, tel: (01483) 416403.

LUCAS - John Lucas, aged 72, quite suddenly at his home, Castle Precincts Lewes, on 18th March. Cremation at Downs Crematorium, Brighton, on Thursday 28th March at 2.30pm. Family and friends welcome at the service and afterwards at The Shelleys Hotel, Lewes.

LUSTY - On March 18th 1996 peacefully at her home Olive aged 91 years, treasured mother of Liz and Tim, much loved by daughter-in-law Jackie and grandchildren Nick, Justin, Alex and Charlie. Funeral Service at St Mary's and St Nicholas Church, Compton, on Wednesday March 27th at 2.30 pm. Flowers to Camp Hopson Funeral Directors, Newbury. tel: (01635) 522210.

DEATHS

MacGREGOR - Diana Evelyn (née Uniacke) on March 19th, beloved mother of Iain and Robin, peacefully in Odiham Cottage Hospital. Funeral Service at Aldershot Crematorium on Monday 25th March at 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Odiham Cottage Hospital c/o Alexander & Dry, 1 Seal Road, Basingstoke, RG21 7NQ.

MACKENZIE - On 19th March peacefully in hospital Edwin Arnold, aged 76, beloved husband of Mary, loving father and grandfather, former Technical Director of London & Overseas Freighters Ltd. Service at All Saints Church, Blackheath, London SE3 (on the heath) on Tuesday 26th March at 10.30 am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Shipwrecked Fishermen & Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society c/o F. Chappell, Funeral Directors, 4 Lee High Road, Lewisham, London SE13.

McNEILE - Alan William, on 20th March peacefully in hospital in Oxford. Adored husband of the late Ursula, loving father of Rupert and Zilla, and much loved father-in-law of Di and Mick, and Papa to his nine grandchildren. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving at Holy Trinity Church, Headington Quarry, Oxford. Enquiries to Funeral Directors A.W. Bruce tel: (01865) 310907.

MUSTON - Philip Valentine on 16th March, beloved husband of Patricia, father of Robert and grandfather of Dominic and Alexandra. Requiem Mass at St Thomas Aquinas Church, Ham, on Wednesday 27th March 10am. Private cremation to follow at Mortlake Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation.

DEATHS

PITT - Honora Pitt (Honor Fawsitt) died suddenly and peacefully on Mothering Sunday. Lately Warden of Braziers Park School of Integrative Social Research, Ipsden, Oxon. Deeply missed by Alan, Catherine, Candida, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and an unnumbered network of friends old and new who, with reason, counted on her. Funeral Service at Ipsden Parish Church, Monday March 25th, 12.30 pm. Family and all who feel close to Honor. No wearing of black; no flowers, by order! Quiet consummation have

SCHNEIDER - On March 20th, aged 91, peacefully at home after a long illness borne with dignity, Ruth, widow of Richard. Dearly loved mother of Irene and the late Louis and grandmother of Jimmy. Funeral Service at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, on Sunday, March 24th at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations in her memory to any cancer charity.

SLAWINSKI - Roman Martin, died peacefully on 16th March. Dearly loved husband of Anna Kosicka, beloved father of Monika and Julian, adored son of Helena and cherished colleague of those at BMF. Funeral Service at St Andrew Bobola's Polish Church, 1, Leysfield Road, W12 at 11.30 am. Wednesday 27th March. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Polish Social and Cultural Association, 238-246 King Street, W6.

STRONG - On March 20th Nicholas Eliot, son of Sara and Tony, suddenly at home aged 3 months. So much loved and deeply missed.

DEATHS

WESTROP - Eileen Mona Margaret (Peggy), on 18th March, peacefully in the devoted care of The Santa Maria Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells, aged 95. Widow of Brigadier S.A. Westrop C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. and loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Brattleby Church, payable to P.C.C. B.S.A. Group (St Cuthberts) c/o D. Doggett, The Lodge, Aisthorpe, Lincoln. Thanksgiving Service at St Cuthberts Church, Brattleby, Lincoln, on Thursday April 11th at 2.30 pm.

WOOLVERIDGE - Gladys on 16th March peacefully aged 97. Thanksgiving Service at St Lawrence Church, Winchester on Friday 29th March at 11.45 am. Enquiries to Jno Steel and Son. Tel: (01962) 844044.

ZORZA - Victor died peacefully in London on March 20th. Loved by his family in England, USA and Poland, and celebrated for his life. Contributions to continue his work should be sent to The British Russian Hospice Society, 279 Ivydale Road, London, SE15 3DZ.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GORDON - The Memorial Service for Alannah Gordon will be held at Papplewick, Ascot, on Saturday May 4th at 11.30 am. Those wishing to attend kindly inform The Secretary, Papplewick, Ascot, SL5 7LH.

MORRELL - A Memorial Concert to remember the life and work of Douglas Morrell will take place at the Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, London W1, on Thursday 2nd May commencing at 10.30 am. All friends and colleagues are welcome. Please apply for tickets from Lesley Collins (01344) 481222 by 15th April.

IN MEMORIAM – WAR

CHADWICK - Major Harry Piers Chadwick killed while serving with the Green Howards. Never forgotten. Ema (Alma), Patricia, Adrian, Jason and Barbara.

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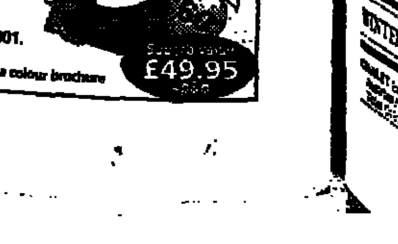

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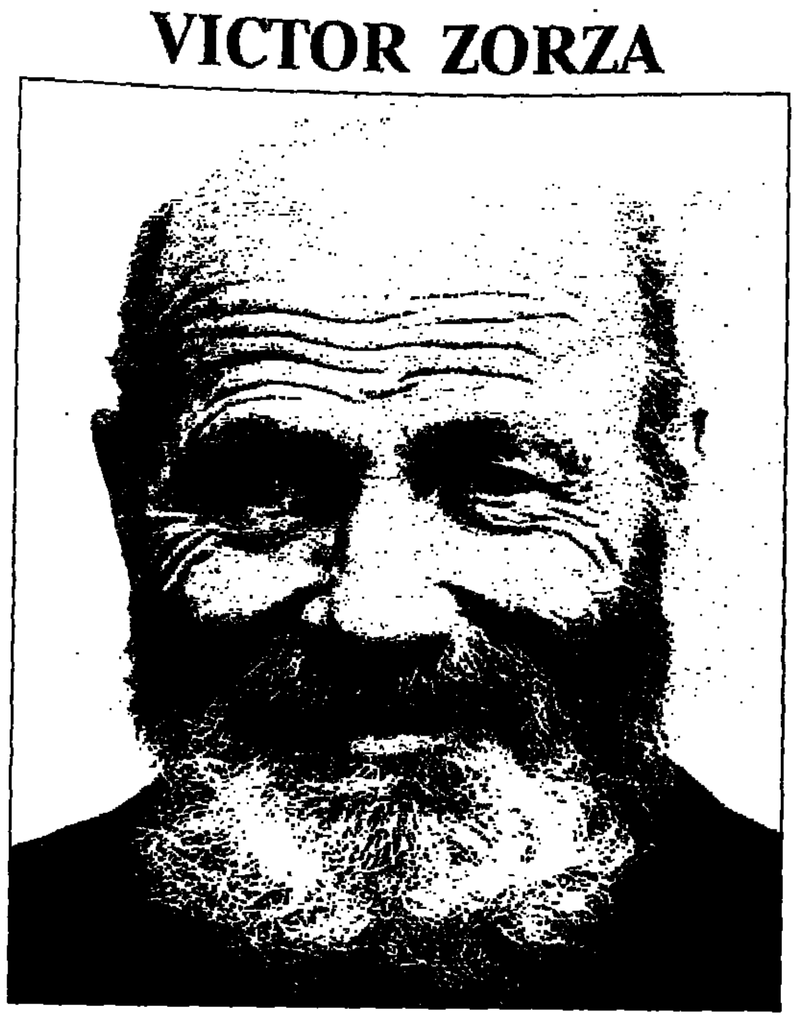

Victor Zorza, Kremlinologist, died on March 20 aged 70. He was born on October 19, 1925.

VICTOR ZORZA enjoyed an international reputation, from the 1950s to the 1970s, as the most imaginative analyst of Soviet policy. He wrote first for *The Guardian*, later in America for *The Washington Post*, and had the distinction of correctly predicting, among other landmarks of Soviet history, the breakdown in Soviet relationships with China and the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

His ambition to work on *The Manchester Guardian* (as it used to be) sprang from his spell with the Polish Air Force during the Second World War. Improbably, he was based somewhere in the Middle East but managed occasionally to read the weekly edition. After the war, however, he discovered that the newspaper did not see the need for a full-time Kremlinologist, so he worked instead for the BBC monitoring service at Faversham.

This was a long way from Zorza's childhood in eastern Poland. He was born into a family of Polish Jews, and when Poland was invaded in 1939 fled to the Soviet Union. He was anxious about what had become of his family and returned to search for them. Immediately he was picked up, deported to Siberia, and after many adventures, escaped to Britain to join the exiled Polish Air Force in 1942.

After the war he attempted again to trace his relations, but after much searching had to conclude that no one in his extended family had survived. He became obsessed with the enormous sum of human misery caused by wars, and with the onset of a cooler relationship between the East and West, read voraciously anything he could on the Soviet Union. He joined the BBC's Foreign Service, monitoring its Soviet broadcasts, and bombarded *The Manchester Guardian* with articles on the subject. He married Rosemary, a colleague at the BBC, in 1949.

Zorza's professional fortunes changed dramatically in 1953 on the night that Stalin died. *The Manchester Guardian* found that it had no obituary. He wrote a monumental piece and thenceforth became the paper's resident Kremlinologist. In 1956 he was taken onto the staff of the paper. His consuming interest in his subject was matched by a vigorous command of English which it was hard to believe had been attained at a Polish secondary school.

He settled down to many years of watching the Soviet political scene. He scored a particular success with his perceptive articles on the deteriorating relationship between Moscow and Peking in 1957. The quoted evidence usually seemed of the flimsiest: the omission of China from a Kremlin listing of brothers-in-arms, the careful parsing of sentences from articles in *Pravda* that could be read as reflecting pique with Peking. This was just the sort of minute detail that other observers would miss, or be at a loss as to how to interpret.

To some colleagues, Zorza's Kremlinology seemed to rest on the endless identification of dogs that did not bark. His defence of his methods was robust: "You simply do not understand. I tell you that I'm right." And by the early 1960s he was proved to be so.

He was one of the few observers to foresee the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. The Soviet authorities had taken the strongest exception to Zorza's reporting in the build-up to this, particularly to an article entitled "The Czech régime is in danger". A retaliatory article in *Izvestia* claimed that Zorza had entirely misrepresented the situation and described him as "striving by means of sundry forgeries and fabrications to rupture the bonds of friendship and brotherhood between the USSR and Czechoslovakia". The paper also claimed that Zorza had been a Soviet agent since 1957 but — in a cut which Zorza found particularly unkind — they found that he had always worked "quite negligently".

By then Zorza was practising his craft from a rustic cottage near Burnham Beeches. *The Guardian* (as it became in 1959) provided a Slav-speaking assistant and Zorza filled the cottage with filing boxes crammed with newspaper cuttings in Cyrillic script. From the outset he regarded any truncation of his copy as an attack on his personal integrity. Colleagues suggested that he should rid himself of this sense of injustice by writing books as well as journalism. But Zorza was a writer who saw text only in 1,000-word chunks. Along with other writers, he became more discontented still when some of the consequences of *The Guardian*'s move to London in the early 1960s became apparent.

In 1971 he left Britain and joined the staff of *The Washington Post*. He avoided briefings and Washington lunches, spending his days, as before, prowling through stacks of Soviet bloc newspapers. Again, this painstaking approach yielded impressive results, and his column became required reading in the White House.

Then came a personal tragedy for Zorza. In 1977 his daughter Jane contracted a melanoma on the sole of her foot. Zorza and his wife returned to Britain and, in a distressingly short time, watched their daughter die in a hospice. The care which was provided impressed Zorza enormously and he was moved to write a book about Jane's death, not only as a form of catharsis, but in order to promote the growth of the hospice movement. *A Way to Die* was published in 1979, but before it had been published, Zorza had to undergo a heart bypass operation and was informed that he himself probably had only a year to live.

This galvanised him into the next stage of his career. Ever since a trip to India which he had made with his daughter, Zorza had been planning to return and to write about the problems facing the rural poor in the Third World. As soon as he was able, he did so and, from 1981, lived mostly in a mud-and-stone hut in the Himalayas.

He produced a weekly column for *The Times* on local life which, for the first time, attempted to provide Western readers with an unsentimental, vigorous account of villagers' lives. Peasant life did not change him much. He set about collaring the great, the good and the famous of the locality with all the zeal of a cub reporter hunting for a story.

In 1989 he was returning home, as he did quite regularly, and decided to do so via Moscow. While he was there his old interest in the hospice movement was reawakened, when the terrible plight of the terminally ill in that country was brought to his attention. He was appalled by what he saw and determined to do what he could for the Russian people during his last years (he was still fighting heart disease). He set up the British Russian Hospice Society, a task for which he was particularly suited by his knowledge of the way Russian bureaucracy worked, and sent out teams of British nurses to train their Russian counterparts. The first Russian hospice was opened in St Petersburg, and another is soon to follow in Moscow.

Two years ago Victor Zorza discovered that his sister had survived the Holocaust and that for more than fifty years had been searching for her lost family. They were reunited in 1994. She survives him, as do his son and his companion for the last two years, Eileen. His marriage ended in divorce in 1992.

PROFESSOR SIR GRANVILLE BEYNON

Professor Sir Granville Beynon, FRS, physicist, died on March 11 aged 81. He was born on May 24, 1914.

A DISTINGUISHED physicist, Granville Beynon made notable contributions to studies of radio propagation and the ionosphere. He published some 60 papers and edited numerous volumes on the subject. His original work included one of the earliest measurements of motions in the F region — the region of the ionosphere where radio waves are reflected — and, with a colleague, A. H. Shapley, the first demonstration that a strange anomalously high absorption of radio waves in winter was related to abnormal warmings in the stratosphere.

Beynon was quick to recognise the potential of developing experimental techniques. This led him to be early in the field with observations of radio signals from artificial satellites. He carried out pioneering rocket experiments to determine the height distribution of electron density in the lower ionosphere. He was also one of the first to appreciate the versatility of the incoherent scatter technique — a technique whereby use is made of radio signals scattered by electrons.

In this context, Beynon was the prime mover in the development of the European Incoherent Scatter Facility (EISCAT), the most advanced incoherent scatter system in the world, situated in Scandanavia, for high latitude studies. He provided the main thrust in establishing a national radar facility at Aberystwyth to investigate small-scale movements in the middle atmosphere at temperate latitudes.

William John Granville Beynon was born at Dunvant, near Swansea, and educated locally, first at what was then Gowerton Grammar School and then at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. After the award of a PhD there, he joined the scientific staff of the radio division of the National Physical Laboratory, Slough, in 1937, where he became the principal assistant to Professor (later Sir) Edward Appleton. This set the scene for Beynon's future direction of research, and started a collaboration which continued until Appleton's death in 1965.

Beynon returned to the University of Wales in 1946, where he remained for the rest of his working life, holding first a lectureship in physics and later, from 1958, the Chair of Physics at Aberystwyth. He retired in 1981.

In parallel with his research, Beynon increasingly applied his considerable administrative ability to international co-operation in science. He was heavily involved with the International Geophysical Year, a major geophysical enterprise over the sunspot maximum period, 1957-58, and even more with its sister programme called the International Quiet Sun Years over the sunspot minimum period, 1964-65, for which he was president of the organising committee.

Beynon was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1973 and served as chairman or member of several of its committees. For his services to science and education he received many honours and awards, including the Goddard Prize of the National Space Club of America and the Chree Medal of the Institute of Physics. He was appointed CBE in 1959 and was knighted in 1976.

Outside his work, he had a lifelong passion for classical music (especially that of Bach) and was himself an accomplished violin player. He was an energetic gardener, a wiley opponent in a game of snooker and an accomplished and amusing teller of stories.

Granville Beynon is survived by his wife Megan, and by their daughter and two sons.

RENÉ CLÉMENT

René Clément, French film director, died on March 17 aged 82. He was born on March 18, 1913.

RENÉ CLÉMENT's career as a film director took a long time to get started, enjoyed an intense but brief flowering, and then went into a long, wilting decline. Even at his most brilliant, he belonged to the senior school of Marcel Carné, the sort of film-maker who could do a highly professional job with a good, literate script and a capable cast. But never quite — in the eyes of the Young Turks of *cahiers du cinéma* at least — did he make it into that inner circle of recognised auteurs, every one of whose works became automatically an expression of their own personal aesthetic and philosophy.

Unfortunately, during Clément's heyday and for some years afterwards, *cahiers du cinéma* were the final arbiters in France of which film-makers were intellectually in, and which were out. Consequently, no sooner had Clément impressed the world with *Les Jeux interdits* (1952), than the type of film which he represented dropped from fashionable regard and was relegated instead, with varying degrees of patronage or hostility, to the ranks of the stodgy, boring "cinéma de papa".

In addition, *Jeux interdits*, a story of children against a background of war, had somehow offended the French Government. It was rejected by the Cannes Film Festival and there was quite a fight before it could be shown at all. On the other hand, it won the Golden Lion at the Venice Festival that year, and was given the Oscar as best foreign film in 1953, thus laying the foundations of Clément's international reputation.

Much of the rest of his film-making was done in the dangerous sphere of international coproduction, and sometimes suffered from the compromises and indecisions of the genre. Arguably he would have worked more comfortably, and put a more personal mark on his films, if he had remained more within the French cinema.

Certainly those of his works which have survived best are the most completely French, and the non-French elements are generally the weakest. In *Gervaise* (1956), for instance, a version of Zola's searing novel *L'Assommoir*, what still impresses is the meticulous recreation of working-class Paris in the 1850s. But Maria Schell's sentimental performance in the title role has faded terribly (though at the time it won her the best actress award at the Venice Festival and a Hollywood contract). *Barrage contre le Pacifique* (The Sea Wall, 1958) was the first filming of a Marguerite Duras novel and was visually and atmospherically impressive, but finally fell victim to its multilingual cast.

At least in its beginnings Clément's film-making could hardly have been more French. Born in Bordeaux, he originally set out to be an architect, studying at the École des Beaux Arts, but had already started to make amateur shorts when he was 18. When he was 20 his father died, and realising that he could not afford to continue with his architectural studies, he went into the cinema instead working, as opportunity offered, as a writer, cameraman and assistant director.

In 1936 he directed the young Jacques Tati in a comedy short, *Soigne ton gauche*. His political documentary *L'Arabie interdite*, made the next year, got him into all sorts of trouble, including being arrested three times. During the war he continued to make shorts, one of which, *Ceux du rail* (1942), prepared the way for his first feature film, *La Bataille du rail* (1946). This was a semi-documentary drama about the Resistance, using mainly non-professional actors, which placed him alongside the new Italian Neo-Realists rather than anyone else then working in France.

At about this time Clément was the founder, with the cameraman Henri Alekin and the screenwriter (later director) Colette Audry, of a cinema club which evolved into the immensely influential IDHEC film school. After working as technical director with Cocteau on *La Belle et la bête* and Noel-Noel on *Le Père tranquille* (another story of the Resistance), in 1947 he made his first mainstream fiction film, *Les Maudits* (The Damned), set entirely on board a German submarine. Next he made *Au delà des grilles*, starring Jean Gabin and Isa Miranda, a love story set in Genoa for which Clément won the best director award at Cannes, Miranda the best actress award, and the film an Oscar for best foreign film.

Then in 1952 came *Jeux interdits*, and Clément was for the moment the most fêted French director worldwide. He followed that with a film which had very little success at the time, but in retrospect looks more and more like his masterpiece. *Knave of Hearts* (*Monsieur Ripois*), an Anglo-French coproduction starring Gerard Philippe as a young Frenchman in London, was a black comedy which showed off the beauty of London and the attractions of such elegant English actresses as Joan Greenwood and Valerie Hobson, all of whom fall prey to his practised continental charm.

After this peak most of Clément's subsequent career was a steady decline. His most famous later film was the three-hour French/American coproduction *Is Paris Burning?* (1966), a last return to the subject of the Resistance and the liberation of Paris, in which a nugget of grainy truth was swallowed in all-star casting and glossy production values. Probably his best later film was *Plein soleil* (Purple Noon, 1959), an adaptation of an ambiguous and decadent Patricia Highsmith novel in which Alain Delon was expertly cast as the charming, murderous hero, and Clément experimented mildly in New Wave techniques like the jump-cut. After *La Baby-Sitter* in 1975 Clément retired from film-making, content (or fairly content) to assume the role of elder statesman.

In 1984 he received an honorary César (the French equivalent of the Oscar) as a lifetime achievement award. Though his work has long been out of fashion, and to a large extent unseen, a recent reappearance of *Jeux interdits* left younger generations vociferously demanding where this great film had been kept hidden all their lives. Though many of his films will no doubt remain in the shadows, it is hard to imagine that his three or four best works will not reassume their place in the pantheon, just as the long unfashionable films of Marcel Carné have done.

ON THIS DAY

March 22, 1899

It was probably not the first, and certainly not the last, Russian famine. In some places starving people had sold even their clothing and household goods to buy food

THE FAMINE IN RUSSIA

The Society of Friends of Russian Freedom have sent out an appeal for help on behalf of the sufferers from the famine which prevails at present in the region of the Volga. The following are extracts from their appeal:— Ten provinces — Kazan, Vyatka, Oufa, Simbirsk, Samara, Saratov, Perm, Toula, Tambov, and RYazan — ie., a territory covering thousands of square miles in the region of the river Volga, and partly in the centre of the Empire, are suffering from a worse failure of crops than any of the oldest inhabitants can remember. Not only have the spring and winter sowings of grain perished in most of the localities, but also vegetables and grass. Last year 35 millions of roubles were assigned by the Government for supplying the famishing population with seed, bread and fodder, but even at that time the needs of only six of the above-mentioned provinces were officially estimated at the same figure, so that four provinces were practically left unprovided for. Since then the needs of the population have increased. Moreover, it must be clearly understood that official allowances of 35lb. of grain per month are given only to non-adults from two to 18, and to adults from 55 years of age, while, as a matter of fact, people of all ages are equally starving. The Red Cross Society, a semi-official benevolent institution, which is now organizing help for the famished peasantry, admits that at least 23 per cent. of all the sufferers have no prospect of getting any official assistance, and must either be maintained by private charity or die. Scurvy and typhus have already broken out in the Kazan, Samara, Oufa, and Voronezh provinces, while the children, deprived of milk through the loss of cattle and of wholesome bread, are dying at a fearful rate simply from exhaustion. Death, however, seems in only too many cases to be a welcome relief from a long series of every day, every minute, suffering. A member of the sanitary and medical staff sent by the Red Cross writes from the Kazan province: "The food of the population consists of a mixture which was formerly used as fodder for horses, but of which the population are now baking 'bread' for themselves. Leaves of raspberry bushes are being boiled like tea, and this decoction, unwholesome in every way, is being consumed with avidity." According to the same source of information, all that could be turned into money has been sold, so that the same gown is being worn for six months without change, without linen or underwear.

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THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY MARCH 22 1996

NEWS

Countries ban British beef imports

■ Britain was in confrontation with its leading European partners after France, Belgium and the Netherlands halted imports of British beef and Germany called for a continent-wide ban.

At the same time, councils across Britain removed beef from the menus of schools and old people's homes in the light of new evidence linking "mad cow" disease and a human brain disorder .... Page 1, 4, 5, 18, 19

Major announces firearms amnesty

■ A nationwide firearms amnesty will be held within the next three months after the massacre of 16 schoolchildren and a teacher in Dunblane, the Prime Minister said. At the same time the terms of reference were announced for the official inquiry into the Scottish killings .... Page 1

Ulster boycott off

John Major cleared a crucial hurdle in the search for peace in Northern Ireland when Irish politicians backed away from a threatened boycott of elections in the Province .... Page 2

Pilots cleared

The two pilots of the RAF Chinook helicopter that crashed into the Mull of Kintyre killing 25 anti-terrorist specialists cannot be blamed for the tragedy, a second inquiry ruled .... Page 2

Inventor loses

A wealthy German inventor's attempt to prove that he invented the personal stereo will cost the British taxpayer £500,000 after his claim, funded by legal aid, was thrown out by the Court of Appeal .... Page 3

Too few lessons

Sixth-formers should spend almost twice as long in the classroom to try to match continental teenagers' achievements, the Labour Party said .... Page 6

£50,000 award

A Pakistani-born nurse has won £50,000 from an NHS Trust over allegations that she was the victim of racial discrimination and harassment .... Page 6

Sex bias row

A garage which runs car-safety classes for women only was told it was breaking the law by excluding men .... Page 9

Challenge for MI5

Dame Stella Rimington hands over her post as director-general of MI5 to her successor next week as the renewed IRA bombing campaign poses a grave challenge .... Page 10

Crime falls again

Recorded crime in England and Wales fell by about 2 per cent last year — the third successive drop — boosting the Government's claim to be curbing criminal behaviour .... Page 10

Wetland ruling

Britain acted illegally by letting part of a wildlife haven be concreted for a car park, according to a landmark European Court of Justice ruling .... Page 11

Activists in Taipei

Two men said by Peking to be "Black Hands" behind the Tiananmen Square uprising were in Taipei watching presidential election preparations .... Page 13

Lebanon border alert

A state of alert was declared in Jewish towns and settlements along the Lebanon border as pro-Iranian guerrilla leaders threatened rocket attacks against Israel .... Page 14

US defence gap

Bob Dole accused President Clinton of neglecting security as the Republicans unveiled legislation to develop a US defence against ballistic missiles .... Page 15

Pigeon fanciers get the bird

■ Britain's 80,000 pigeon fanciers — a group that includes the Queen — were told their great passion is not a sport. The VATman has decided that because the bird does all the work pigeon-racing is merely a hobby, not qualifying for a sports tax exemption. Fanciers meet in two weeks' time to decide whether to appeal to the European Court .... Page 11, 19

Taiwan Army displays its American-made M60A3 tanks yesterday during a show of military strength at Lin Kou, west of Taipei

BUSINESS

Water wars: A bid war for South West Water was triggered when Severn Trent moved to buy the company, which already has a proposal from Wessex Water on its way to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission .... Page 23

Economy: Cheaper mortgages helped Britain's headline inflation rate to fall to its lowest level for 15 months in February .... Page 23

Mixed spirits: Guinness struck a note of caution as it unveiled a 4 per cent decline in 1995 profits to £876 million .... Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 12.9 to 3,698.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index was unchanged at 84.0 after climbing from $1.5363 to $1.5372 and from DM2.2696 to DM2.2697 .... Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: David Graveney was confirmed as a rival to Raymond Illingworth to be chairman of the England selectors .... Page 44

Football: Garry Flitcroft, the Manchester City and England under-21 midfield player, is set to sign for Blackburn Rovers today for £3.5 million .... Page 44

Rugby league: The Australian Rugby League is bringing a court action to prevent Maurice Lindsay from playing any further part in the setting up of a rebel Global League competition .... Page 39

Racing: The Lincoln meeting, which spluttered into life at a chilly and mist-shrouded Doncaster, could soon be staged in April after the Grand National at Aintree .... Page 41

ARTS

Hell of an evening: Richard O'Brien's show, an evocation of a rock-music hell called *Disgracefully Yours*, has none of the fresh appeal of *The Rocky Horror Show*, says Benedict Nightingale .... Page 33

Veteran's premiere: At the age of 82 the composer George Lloyd conducted the premiere of his new choral work, *A Litany*, at the Festival Hall .... Page 33

Rise of Nusrat: From local hero in Pakistan to world-music superstar, supplying soundtrack songs for Hollywood's biggest films, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan has had a spectacular rise to fame .... Page 35

Pop on Friday: David Sinclair on albums from Mark Knopfler and Underworld; Caitlin Moran on the hippy lyrics of Cast .... Page 34, 35

FEATURES

Rare showing: Imperial Chinese treasures have been allowed out of Taiwan for a New York exhibition .... Page 16

Valerie Grove interviews Jennifer Longford, thought to be Lloyd George's love child .... Page 17

Captains of Industry: Julia Llewellyn Smith profiles George Simpson, GEC's new head, among investors' darlings .... Page 17

EDUCATION

Pupils' progress: John O'Leary introduces *The Times* guide to national curriculum tests .... Page 36

Student movement: The NUS is a breeding ground for would-be Labour MPs .... Page 36

MANAGEMENT

Special report: From canteen to computer room, from switchboard to stationery cupboard — all you need to know about facilities management is in today's colour guide

THE PAPERS

As with Chirac's earlier announcement of a French professional army, Bonn was not consulted on the idea of a "European army". Alain Juppé has withdrawn the proposal. Even so, the emphasis on the West European Union has raised the question of whether France is really seeking a WEU military structure alongside that of Nato .... — *Die Welt*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ STRONG WOMEN
Who are the 25 most powerful women in the world? Find out in the *Magazine*

■ SINGLE WOMEN
Lynne Truss on unmarried bliss and the unsurprising rise of the single household

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Bach and Blur are put to the IQ test. *Tomorrow's World — Megalab '96* (BBC1, 7.30pm).
Review: Lynne Truss leaps to the defence of Joy Adamson .... Page 43

OPINION

A happy hybrid

The best response to terror is a determination by democrats not to weaken, but to learn to work together .... Page 19

Politician and the cow

The Ministry of Agriculture has itself been too long too influenced by the food producers. The independent voice of consumers has been too weak .... Page 19

The pigeon has landed

British pigeon racers: take your case to pigeon-loving Brussels. Unite! You have nothing to lose but your VAT .... Page 19

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

The only point that really matters about Northern Ireland politics is that all-party talks will start on Monday, June 10, and that Sinn Fein will be allowed to participate only if the IRA restores its ceasefire. Everything else is secondary. Yesterday's statement by the Prime Minister on the method of elections to be held on May 30 is a further manoeuvre to achieve this end .... Page 12

BERNARD LEVIN

Does Mrs Mills feel ashamed at what Amnesty has dug up while she was taking tea in Peking with evil? .... Page 18

MAGNUS LINKLATER

The whole BSE saga has been shrouded in the kind of secrecy that characterises so much government policy. There has been a suspicion of those who challenge the orthodox view and an unwillingness to discuss the risk .... Pages 18

OBITUARIES

Victor Zorza, Kremlinologist; **Professor Sir Granville Beynon**, physicist; **René Clément**, film director .... Page 21

LETTERS

Dangers of BSE link with humans; how no-fault divorces have operated in America; unrest in Bahrain; the English syllabus .... Page 19

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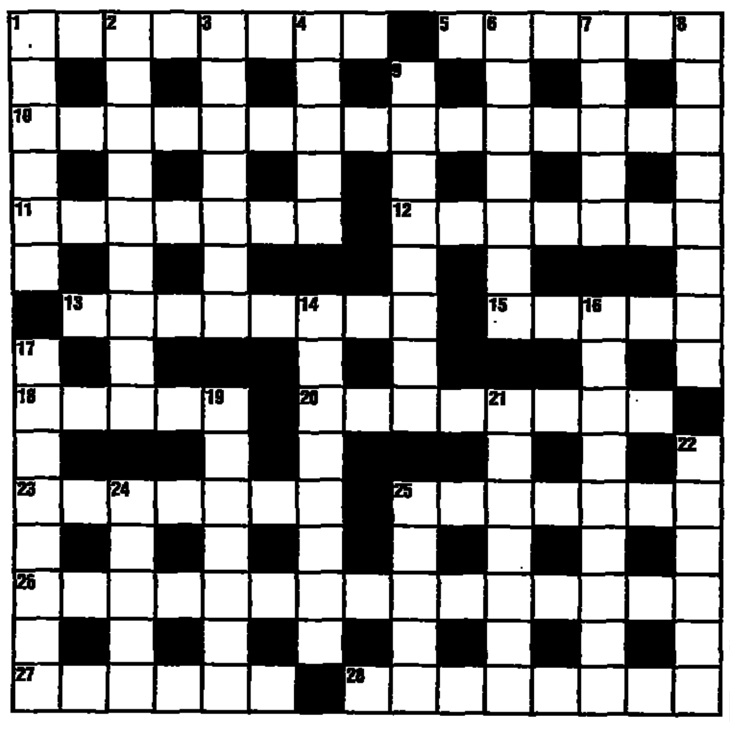


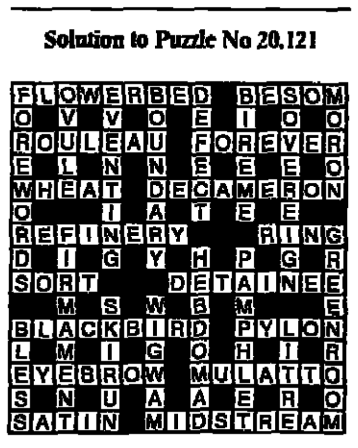
ACROSS

1 Almost getting agreement about drink (8).
5 Pretty semi-detached — wonderful little house (6).
10 Description of women in demographic data (5,10).
11 American animal taking credit for origin of litter (7).
12 Big charity show's over, having put out hard message (7).
13 A fish repeatedly extracted food ingredient from seaweed (4-4).
15 Invigorating air I found beyond Australia (5).
18 Farming concern removing head of local office (5).
20 *Ring's* mainly involved with power of gods (8).
23 It's loud — talk about that, do (7).
25 Quiet part of Spain is ideal (7).
26 I treat one in team differently — she lost her head in public (5,10).
27 Sampling bouquet to find what's wrong in drink (6).
28 Poet one's seen getting out of nice carriage (8).

DOWN

1 Wintertime hazard for driver who's a learner? (6).
2 Relatively old, but managing (7,2).
3 Satellite dish rattles (7).
4 Table showing some seasonal tariffs (5).
6 Foreign food upset emperor and knight (7).
7 Ruffle father badly (5).
8 Best man in love? On the contrary, infatuated (8).
9 Fish isn't changing colour across the Atlantic (8).
14 Governor General carries bird home rejoicing (8).
16 Primate wants an organ designed to hold a note (5-4).
17 He's beginning to study free-range farm hens (8).
19 Person over the hill was made perfect (3-4).
21 Team-mate runs to catch up (7).
22 Another building appropriate to the east (6).
24 Raised starting price — routine for oil in short supply (5).
25 Cruise beginning in Peru — take a boat over lake (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,121



Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey, 12 (54F); lowest day max: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 3C (37F); highest rainfall: Dunkeswell, Devon, 1.34in; highest sunshine: Morecambe, Lancashire, and Anglesey, Gwynedd, 5hr

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** low pressure over southern England, fronts approaching the southwest later. England and Wales will have mist and fog at first and a lot of cloud overall, but some bright intervals may develop in northwestern parts. Rain will spread across the South West in the afternoon. Top temperatures will be near normal, the north milder than recently.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy, with some patchy rain or drizzle, but the north and northwest may be brighter at times. A little sleet or snow is likely over the mountains, and southeasterly winds will keep temperatures somewhat below normal.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Isle of Man, Central N England:** mostly cloudy but mainly dry after early mist and fog. Wind east or southeast light. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** misty start, rain from southwest later. Wind southeast light becoming moderate. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **E England, Lake District, NE England, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** mostly cloudy, some drizzle in places. Wind southeast mainly moderate. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth:** mostly cloudy with some patchy drizzle, sleet or snow on hills. Wind east or southeast light or moderate. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** mainly cloudy with a few isolated showers. Wind southeast moderate or fresh. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Outlook:** mainly dry, warmer in the south. Some rain in the north, snow on mountains.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

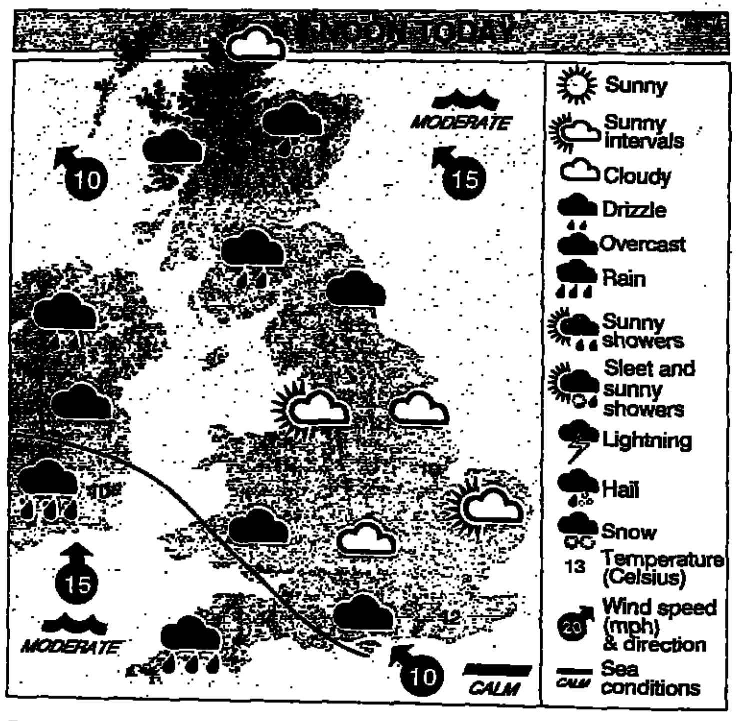
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.07	5	41	c	Leuchars	-	0.03	5	41	d
Anglesey	5.0	0.13	9	48	b	Littlehmptn	0.1	0.27	9	48	r
Aspatria	0.3	-	7	45	r	Liverpool	0.3	0.18	8	46	r
Aviemore	1.7	0.04	5	41	sl	London	0.3	0.24	11	52	r
Belfast	-	0.02	7	45	r	Lowestoft	-	0.13	6	43	r
Birmingham	-	0.18	8	46	r	Manchester	0.1	0.02	8	46	c
Bognor R	0.3	0.30	8	46	r	Margate	0.2	0.16	11	52	r
Bournem'th	-	0.41	8	46	r	Minehead	-	0.87	8	46	r
Bristol	0.1	0.39	10	50	r	Morecambe	5.0	-	8	46	du
Buxton	-	0.31	5	41	r	Newcastle	-	-	5	41	d
Cardiff	-	0.55	9	48	r	Newquay	-	0.38	X	X	sh
Clacton	X					Norwich	-	0.09	7	45	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.03	6	43	c	Oxford	-	0.09	8	46	sh
Cromer	-	0.08	6	43	r	Penzance	-	0.15	9	48	d
Eastbourne	0.5	0.45	9	48	r	Plymouth	X				
Edinburgh	X					Poole	-	0.53	9	48	r
Eskdalemuir	-	0.02	3	37	sn	Prestatyn	X	0.14	7	45	r
Exmouth	-	0.72	10	50	c	Ross-o-wye	-	0.39	8	46	r
Falmouth	-	0.25	9	48	c	Ryde	X				
Fishguard	0.1	0.01	9	48	r	Salcombe	-	0.89	9	48	c
Folkestone	1.2	0.20	10	50	r	Sandown	-	0.37	8	46	r
Glasgow	-	0.01	7	45	r	Sauntn Snd	-	0.22	10	50	du
Guernsey	-	0.05	11	52	c	Shrewsbury	-	0.17	8	46	r
Hastings	0.1	0.47	8	46	r	Skegness	-	0.07	6	43	r
Hayling I.	0.1	0.41	8	46	r	Southend	-	0.21	8	46	r
Herne Bay	X					Southsea	-	0.44	5	41	r
Hove	0.2	0.19	8	46	r	Stornoway	4.5	0.02	7	45	sh
Hunstanton	-	0.05	9	48	r	Swanage	-	0.45	8	46	r
Ilfracombe	X					Teignmouth	0.7	0.70	11	52	sh
Isle of Man	0.2	0.30	8	46	r	Tiree	0.4	-	7	45	c
Jersey	4.0	-	12	54	b	Torquay	-	0.71	11	52	c
Kinloss	-	0.05	6	43	r	Tynemouth	-	-	5	41	c
Leeds	-	0.02	9	48	r	Ventnor	-	0.25	7	45	r
Lerwick	1.0	0.02	5	41	sh	Weymouth	-	0.78	8	46	r

ABROAD

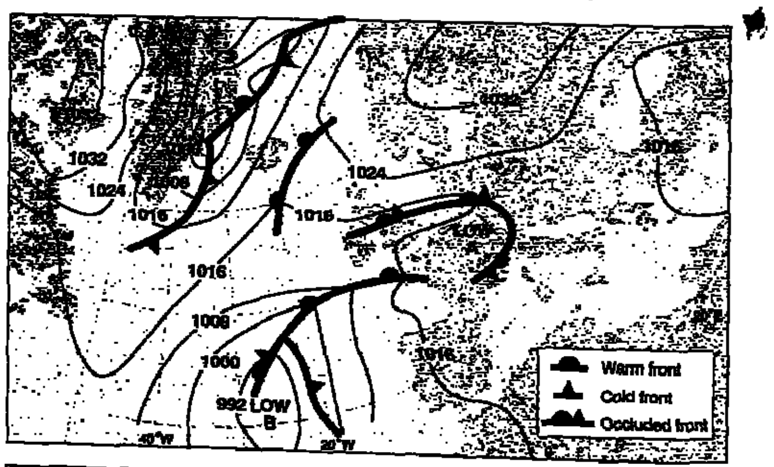
Ajaccio	15	59	s	Corfu	11	52	r	Madrid	13	55	c	Riyadh	25	77	f
Akrotiri	15	59	s	C'phagn	3	37	s	Majorca	17	63	s	Rome	14	57	s
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dublin	5	41	c	Malaga	19	66	f	S Fr'sco	14	57	s
Algiers	19	66	f	Dubrovnik	9	48	b	Malta	16	61	f	Salzburg	9	48	s
Amst'dm	10	50	s	Faro	16	61	f	Melb'rne	15	59	f	Santiago	28	82	s
Athens	11	52	f	Florence	14	57	c	Mexico C	17	63	s	Seoul	12	54	s
B Aires	28	82	f	Frankfurt	11	52	s	Miami	22	72	c	Sing'por	31	88	f
Bahrain	24	75	c	Funchal	17	63	f	Milan	13	55	s	Stk'holm	4	39	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	12	54	c	Montreal	1	34	c	Strasb'rg	12	54	s
Barbados	29	84	s	Gibraltar	17	63	f	Moscow	3	37	s	Sydney	21	70	s
Barcelona	16	61	s	Helsinki	3	37	s	Munich	10	50	s	Tangier	18	64	f
Beirut	15	59	f	Hong K	18	64	c	N Delhi	26	79	s	Tel Aviv	17	63	c
Belgrade	8	46	s	Innsbrck	13	55	s	N York	7	45	f	Tenerife	19	66	f
Berlin	6	43	s	Istanbul	6	43	f	Nairobi	X			Tokyo	9	48	c
Bermuda	21	70	f	Jeddah	30	86	s	Naples	15	59	f	Toronto	0	32	sn
Biarritz	15	59	s	Jo'burg	25	77	s	Nice	13	55	f	Tunis	18	64	f
Bord'x	15	59	f	Karachi	X			Oslo	2	36	s	Valencia	20	68	c
Brussels	6	43	f	L Angels	18	64	s	Paris	11	52	f	Vanc'ver	9	48	r
Budapest	2	36	c	L Palmas	20	68	c	Peking	9	48	s	Venice	10	50	s
Cairo	21	70	f	Le Tquet	8	46	f	Perth	26	79	s	Vienna	9	48	s
Cape Tn	29	84	s	Lisbon	15	59	c	Prague	4	39	s	Warsaw	1	34	c
Ch'church	25	77	s	Locarno	X			Reykjavik	1	34	s	Wash'ton	7	45	f
Chicago	2	36	s	Luxembg	11	52	s	Rhodes	15	59	s	Wel'ngton	14	57	c
Cologne	13	55	s	Luxor	28	82	s	Rio de J	25	77	f	Zurich	10	50	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Wednesday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low B will track northwards and deepen slightly. Low A will move northeastwards and quickly fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3:24	7.4	3:51	7.4	Leith	4:18	5.6	4:38	5.6
Aberdeen	2:57	4.2	3:07	4.4	Liverpool	0:46	9.6	1:06	9.7
Avonmouth	9:03	14.0	9:18	13.6	Lowestoft	11:22	2.3	11:30	2.5
Belfast	0:49	3.5	1:11	3.6	Margate	1:43	4.9	2:08	4.8
Cardiff	8:55	12.7	9:11	12.2	Milford Haven	7:58	7.2	8:16	7.0
Devonport	7:41	5.6	7:55	5.4	Newquay	6:46	7.1	7:04	6.8
Dover	0:37	7.0	12:57	6.8	Oban	7:21	4.0	7:29	3.9
Dublin (N Wall)	1:02	3.9	1:21	4.1	Penzance	6:23	5.8	6:40	5.6
Falmouth	7:06	5.3	7:25	5.1	Portland	8:39	2.2	8:55	2.1
Greenock	2:11	3.5	2:23	3.7	Portsmouth	1:00	4.9	1:19	4.7
Harwich	1:17	4.1	1:43	4.0	Shoreham	0:58	6.6	1:18	6.4
Holyhead	-	-	12:06	5.8	Southampton	0:19	4.7	12:33	4.6
Hull (Albert D)	8:02	7.5	8:14	7.8	Swansea	8:11	9.9	8:25	9.6
Ilfracombe	7:51	9.7	8:05	9.4	Tees	5:23	5.4	5:37	5.5
King's Lynn	7:58	6.9	8:17	7.0	Walton-on-Naze	1:15	4.3	1:41	4.3

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 5.58 am
Sun sets: 6.18 pm
Moon sets 10.08 pm
Moon rises 7.22 am
First quarter March 27

London 6.18 pm to 5.56 am
Bristol 6.27 pm to 6.06 am
Edinburgh 6.31 pm to 6.07 am
Manchester 6.27 pm to 6.04 am
Penzance 6.39 pm to 6.18 am

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هكذا من الاصل

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Jack Straw and a fiery baptism in politics

SPORT 39-44

Hastings looking to play for more than kicks

HOW EFFICIENT IS YOUR COMPANY?
Facilities Management: 24-page pullout today

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY MARCH 22 1996

Exchange clears way for trading revolution

By Robert Miller

THE warring factions at the London Stock Exchange yesterday buried their differences and confirmed plans to introduce the most radical changes to the way shares are bought and sold since Big Bang in 1986.

The board of the Exchange said it had accepted a proposal from one of its steering committees to introduce a public limit order book in the FT-SE 100 stocks. The new electronic order-matching service, which will eliminate the spread between the buy and sell price for shares, could be extended to other stocks listed on the London Exchange if the initial pilot scheme proves successful.

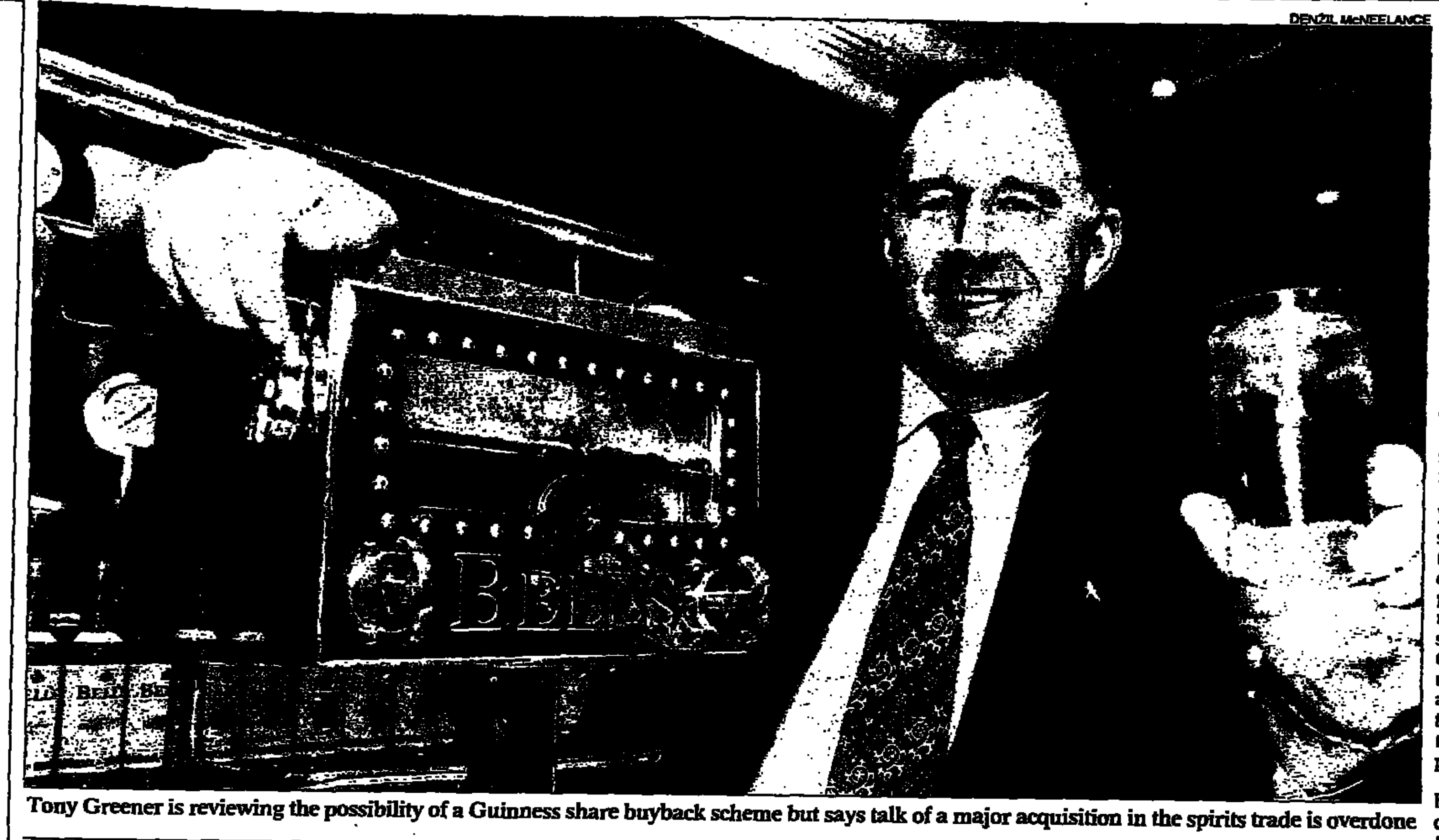
The Stock Exchange said last night that the interests of private investors, as well as the major professional market players, would be safeguarded. Before the new system can be introduced, however, an extensive consultation exercise will have to be undertaken with market users and the various watchdogs that oversee City regulation.

The Exchange's board announced that there will be a second round of consultation beginning in May and timed to end in June. Spring 1997 is the earliest possible date pencilled in for introduction of the new order matching service.

Leading retail stockbrokers yesterday expressed reservations about the new system. Justin Urquhart Stewart, a director of Barclays Stockbrokers, said it would be unfortunate if brokers were caught out because they were trying to provide the best service for customers while trying to satisfy the new demands imposed on them by regulators. He also called for an "extensive education" campaign to explain how the new system would affect private clients.

David Jones, chief executive of Sharelink, the UK's largest retail stockbroker, said: "Our concern is that the trading system will become a hybrid one and we have already expressed our reservations in writing to the Commons Treasury Select Committee. Our main problem is that if we do follow the proposals as they are the UK is in serious danger of losing out on a great opportunity to become the world's leading capital market."

Giles Vardey, director of markets development and marketing at the Stock Exchange, said: "This is a complex and important decision and we believe that further debate will help ensure that the final framework and detailed application will work for the whole market place."



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Tony Greener is reviewing the possibility of a Guinness share buyback scheme but says talk of a major acquisition in the spirits trade is overdone

Severn joins bidding for South West Water

By Christine Buckley

A BID war for South West Water was triggered yesterday when Severn Trent moved to buy the company, which already has a proposal from Wessex Water on its way to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

A fight would be hotly contested not only on the price for the company but also on reductions in customer bills that the bidders would offer. Price cuts, already a prime consideration for the water regulator, will gain added political weight as a general election looms.

The move by Severn, which surprised many in the City, will also have to go before the MMC under the Water Industry Act so shareholders will see no firm offers on the table until late summer when the commission is likely to rule.

Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, yesterday pressed for customer benefits from the potential takeover of South West which has the highest water bills in the country and has been criticised for pouring water into the sea and separately contaminating supplies. He said: "The regulator and the Government must make sure that these amalgamations don't allow the companies to hide savings in the accounts so that the customers don't get their fair share of any savings that might occur."

Price cuts of at least 15 per cent are thought to be inevitable if the regulator is to follow curbs applied to Lyonnaise des Eaux, the French utility which bought Northumbrian Water.

Both potential bidders will be under pressure to deliver price cuts not only to the customers of South West but also to their own. A move to introduce cuts for the South West without commensurate cuts for existing customers will be viewed by consumer groups as the effective subsidy of one group of customers by another.

Severn, which said that its bid for South West would be all cash, said yesterday that it had planned its move for several months.

The two companies do not make the same geographical fit that Wessex is able to offer its southerly neighbour. But Severn, which is bigger than Wessex and with a gearing of 21 per cent should be able to command considerable cash resources to buy South West, says it could make substantial savings from improved management at its target company.

Cocker: operations review

Alan Costin, finance director, said the intended acquisition formed part of a review of operations initiated last year by Vic Cocker when he became chief executive.

Wessex said it was "pleased that Severn Trent agrees with Wessex about the benefits to customers and shareholders of combining South West Water in a larger organisation".

South West, which rejected the first advance by Wessex as unwelcome, yesterday repeated that response and told its shareholders that both offers were unsolicited, unwelcome and did not constitute a firm offer for the company.

Keith Court, the chairman of the company who recently postponed his scheduled departure in order to see the bid through, said: "We are pledged to the continuing programme of improving services and delivering efficiencies for shareholders and customers. Neither Severn Trent's nor Wessex's announcements will distract us from these goals."

Meanwhile South West is assembling the case it will put to the MMC. But rumours still persist in the City that a US utility, not subject to the same mandatory MMC referral as a UK company, may still pounce on South West.

Pennington, page 25

Thames turns tide of diversification

By Christine Buckley

THAMES WATER yesterday took a knife to businesses that have lost the company £70 million in the past six years in a sweeping disposal programme that cost the job of the chief executive.

Mike Hoffman, who was largely responsible for the much-criticised diversification strategy of the utility, left yesterday while his severance was still being negotiated. He is expected to take a pay-off of at least £500,000 after the company made a one-off charge of £95 million for disposing of overseas businesses that Mr Hoffman helped to introduce to the London company's portfolio.

Nine businesses, mostly overseas, are being sold and about 500 jobs are expected to go as Thames moves to refocus on its core water utility functions. The bulk of job losses will occur overseas, although Thames is also reorganising some UK functions as part of the streamlining.

Mr Hoffman's position will not be filled. The company will be headed by Sir Robert Clarke, non-executive chairman since last year. He becomes executive chairman, while Bill Alexander, managing director of the Thames Water Utilities division, becomes managing director for all the company's operations.

David Luffrum, finance director, admitted that the businesses that are up for sale were mistaken purchases.

Assets are being written down to the tune of £50 million on the businesses as Thames expects to get less than their book value. It is putting £30 million of goodwill associated with the operations through the profit and loss account as accounting standards dictate. The further £15 million making up the £95 million charge will cover reorganisation costs.

The company's shake-out was well received in the City with many utilities analysts calling it overdue. Shares in Thames rose 17p to 575p.

Caution as Guinness profits go flat

By Alasdair Murray

GUINNESS, the drinks company, struck a note of caution on prospects for this year as it unveiled a 4 per cent decline in 1995 profits to £876 million. Guinness blamed difficult market conditions and £69 million exceptional charges for the fall.

Tony Greener, chairman, held out the possibility of a share buyback this year, saying the company was reviewing its dividend and buyback strategies. But the market remained unimpressed and Guinness shares fell 11.5 p to 460.5p. Mr Greener also played down rumours that Guinness sought a major acquisition, describing talk of further consolidation in the spirits industry as "overplayed".

Turnover was flat at £4.68 billion, while the total dividend was raised 8 per cent to 14.9p. Operating profits in United Distillers, the spirits company, fell 4 per cent to £673 million. But Guinness Brewers Worldwide increased operating profits 5 per cent to £270 million. Guinness's share of the profits from its 34 per cent stake in Moët Hennessy, the drinks subsidiary of LVMH, was £111 million.

Guinness also revealed its marketing spend for the first time — £500 million last year. The company said expenditure on marketing would grow at "double digit" levels this year. A final dividend of 10.7p (9.9p) is payable on May 21.

☐ Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH-Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, Guinness's largest shareholder, said he had no plans to sell his company's 20 per cent stake. But M Arnault added that he wanted to see an improvement in Guinness shares. LVMH reported a 10.3 per cent growth in net income to Fr 4 billion. Net sales rose to Fr29.7 billion, an increase of 6.5 per cent. Luxury products grew 16 per cent, outstripping wines and spirits, which fell 5 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3698.3	(+12.9)
Yield	4.01%	
FT-SE A All share	1839.6	(+6.12)
Nikkei	20727.53	(+284.83)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5641.69	(−13.73)*
S&P Composite	650.36	(+0.38)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	$5\frac{5}{16}$%*	($5\frac{5}{16}$%)
Long Bond	$91\frac{21}{32}$*	($91\frac{25}{32}$)
Yield	6.62%*	(6.64%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{3}{32}$%	($6\frac{3}{32}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	$105\frac{11}{32}$	($105\frac{5}{16}$)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5355*	(1.5390)
London:		
$	1.5363	(1.5391)
DM	2.2698	(2.2665)
FFr	7.7870	(7.7665)
SFr	1.8364	(1.8311)
Yen	163.82	(163.57)
£ Index	84.0	(84.0)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4776*	(1.4743)
FFr	5.0679*	(5.0485)
SFr	1.1965*	(1.1925)
Yen	106.68*	(106.45)
$ Index	96.7	(95.7)

Tokyo close Yen 106.45

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$17.85	($17.80)

GOLD

London close	$396.05	($394.75)

* denotes midday trading price

Forecast

BET, the business services group, yesterday hit back at Rentokil's £1.9 billion hostile takeover bid, forecasting a 28 per cent increase in its full-year profits at £142 million before tax. BET shares rose to their highest level since the bid was launched last month. **Page 25. *Tempus* 26**

Warning

Hepworth, the building products, heating and minerals group, accompanied flat annual profits with a warning that profits for the first half of the current year will be affected by tough trading conditions in construction markets across Europe and adverse weather. **Page 29**

MMC caps classifieds in BT's Yellow Pages

By Eric Reguly

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) recommended yesterday that price controls be placed on the classified advertising rates charged by the Yellow Pages after concluding that the business, one of BT's most profitable, had exploited its monopoly position.

The findings, which were accepted by the Department of Trade and Industry, means that advertising rates will have to fall by 2 per cent a year in real terms for a three-year period starting in the autumn. John Condron, managing director of the Yellow Pages, was "disappointed" with the price cap but said it would not necessarily lead to a decline in operating profits. They "just won't rise as fast," he said. Operating profits were £138 million on sales of £338 million in 1994-95 and the return on sales was a lofty 41 per cent. Advertising rates have been raised by 4-5 per cent a year since the early 1990s. Mr Condron said efficiency gains, including expansion into new businesses such as electronic and on-line publishing, would allow the company to cope with the price cap.

The Yellow Pages must also publish financial accounts that are separate from BT and stop publishing more than one directory in a given market area, an order that will effectively eliminate its local directories. Advertisers triggered the MMC inquiry when they complained that the Yellow Pages had raised advertising rates except in areas where it was competing directly with local directories.

Thomson Directories, the US West division that is the main competitor to Yellow Pages, said it was generally pleased with the MMC's findings but said that the price cap, which will not apply to Thomson, may reduce competition instead of opening up the market.

Pennington, page 25

Inflation falls to a 15-month low

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

BRITAIN'S headline inflation rate fell to its lowest level for 15 months in February, largely because of cheaper mortgages but also because of the petrol price war between supermarkets.

The headline rate eased to 2.7 per cent, from 2.9 per cent in January. However, the underlying rate, the Government's target, edged up to 2.9 per cent, from 2.8 per cent, reflecting price rises for food, personal goods and leisure goods. RPIY, the inflation measure that excludes mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, remained 2.5 per cent.

The City had expected the underlying rate to fall with headline inflation and there was some disappointment. However, the deterioration is not deemed large enough to prevent another quarter-point cut in base rates within the next few months. The Treasury said: "Inflation continues to remain low. The underlying cost pressures remain weak."

Some analysts said that consumer demand may now be strong enough to let retailers rebuild margins a little. Others argued that various indicators of inflation have weakened sharply and that wage growth remains subdued, making it hard to see inflation taking off in the high street.

Pennington, page 25

The Perfect Travelling Companion ...

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Time for one last cocktail as the Imperial Airways flying boat waits at the jetty for the night flight to Mombasa ...

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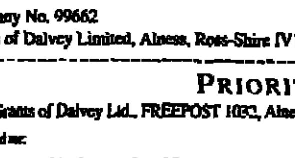

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Short Bros confirms plan to shed jobs

By Ross Tieman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHORT BROTHERS has confirmed plans to shed 800 workers who made wings and other parts for Fokker, the collapsed Dutch aircraft-maker, and warned that 300 more could go unless government aid was available to retrain them.

Although only 300 compulsory redundancies are expected, a further 250 volunteers are expected, while 540 temporary workers will not be re-employed.

The job cuts, by the biggest private sector employer in Northern Ireland, will hit hard in a community already suffering an unemployment rate of 11.9 per cent, the highest in the United Kingdom.

Receivers are expected to order the completion of only 12 or 15 jet and turboprop airliners left on Fokker's production line. Output of the Fokker 70 64-seat jet and its big sister, the 110-seat Fokker 100, had been running at about 40 aircraft a year.

The job cuts will affect nearly a fifth of Short Brothers workforce in Belfast. The company hopes government help may be available to retrain some employees for other work on new programmes.

Bombardier is said to be in talks with administrators in Amsterdam about a possible takeover of the Fokker aircraft maintenance business, which provides after-market support for airlines. Saab Aircraft of Sweden confirmed discussions about parts of the Fokker business.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.08	1.92
Austria Sch	16.96	15.46
Belgium Fr	49.83	45.33
Canada $	2.199	2.039
Cyprus Cyp£	0.754	0.699
Denmark Kr	9.38	8.58
Finland Mkk	7.62	6.97
France Fr	8.18	7.53
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	391.00	366.00
Hong Kong $	12.53	11.53
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1400	4.4900
Italy Lira	2498.00	2343.00
Japan Yen	177.90	161.90
Malta	0.593	0.538
Netherlds Gld	2.693	2.463
New Zealand $	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.45	9.65
Portugal Esc	245.50	227.00
S Africa Rd	6.56	5.76
Spain Pta	198.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	10.83	10.03
Switzerland Fr	1.97	1.79
Turkey Lira	111049.	103049.
USA $	1.634	1.504

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

TONY WHITE

David Kendall, chairman of Blagden Industries, joins Richard Searle, chief executive, and David Roach, finance director, in looking to the next phase of development after the steel drum, chemicals and protective equipment group, returned to the dividend list with a 2p final payout. It reported pre-tax profits of £9.06 million in the year to December 31, against a provision-driven loss of £5.6 million last time

British Gas seeks new TransCo price formula

By Christine Buckley

BRITISH GAS yesterday drew further battle lines between its pipeline business and the industry regulator, who is close to imposing pricing curbs on TransCo, the profitable distribution arm

The company, whose chairman, Richard Giordano, has said that a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission over TransCo's pricing is almost inevitable, is pushing for a different pricing formula and a shake-up of the regulatory constraints operating on it. The decision on the five-year pricing programme, which will be announced in the next few months by Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, will be worth billions to the company.

Ms Spottiswoode has indicated that a tough price cap, based on the inflation-linked RPI-X, is likely.

British Gas said that it wanted to see the X fall to less than five — the current curb on TransCo. Philip Rogerson, executive director, said that five was far too onerous and the company would be seeking less than that to meet operating costs and to facilitate capital investment. TransCo expects a decrease in total capital expenditure at 1994 prices, from £886 million in 1997 to £716 million in 2004. It said: "Total expenditure over the period is projected to amount to £6.6 billion, 58 per cent of which relates to expenditure required to maintain the existing carrying capacity, and the balance to investment in new carrying capacity."

But the company argues that there will be a marked jump in costs on the full introduction of competition into the domestic market, with TransCo having to bill and handle the accounts of a range of new gas suppliers separately.

Mr Rogerson also said that British Gas wanted a pricing structure that included profit-sharing, so that some of its cash would be returned to customers — the gas shippers that use the network — and shareholders. The move is under discussion with Ofgas.

The regulator, which yesterday published its progress report on the TransCo pricing negotiations, said that a decision would soon be made on whether profit-sharing could be introduced.

British Gas underlined the gulf between itself and the regulator by calling for a public contract between the two parties and arbitration in the event of disputes. Harry Moulson, managing director of TransCo, said arbitration would prove a swifter method of solving disputes than an MMC referral, which is the only current form of appeal other than a judicial review.

Ofgas said that the first proposals on TransCo will be published on May 6, with the final recommendations available publicly on July 15.

Tempus, page 26

GM in strike agreement

From Richard Thomson in New York

THE strike that has shut down most of General Motors, the world's largest car maker, for 17 days appears to be at an end with an agreement between the company and the United Auto Workers. The deal will be put to a workers' vote today.

The agreement, the details of which were not disclosed by the company, will allow the 3,000 workers at two brake plants in Dayton, Ohio, who originally went out on strike to return to work. The decision will enable GM to reopen the 26 factories forced to close because of the walkout. The brake workers had been worried about job security because of moves by the company to contract some of its work to outside companies.

The strike crippled GM's North American operations, forcing 176,000 into idleness, and caused countless workers in supply companies across America to be laid off. Analysts said that it would have cost GM about $2.5 billion in lost production and at least twice that in the industries that supply the company. As well as devastating production figures of the US car industry for the first quarter of this year, the shutdown will have knocked about a third off total US industrial output for the quarter, economists estimate.

Thornton takes over at Laura Ashley

By Sarah Bagnall

THE relationship between Laura Ashley and Goldman Sachs intensified yesterday when the clothing and furnishings group announced the appointment of John Thornton, a partner at the American bank, as chairman to replace Lord Hooson, who retires in May.

Goldman Sachs is already the retailer's financial adviser, having replaced Lazards last September shortly after the arrival of Ann Iverson as chief executive at Laura Ashley.

Furthermore, until recently Mr Thornton was adviser to Sir Bernard Ashley, widower of the company's founder and owner of 34 per cent of the shares. He relinquished this role when he was appointed a non-executive director of the retailer last July.

Ms Iverson has known Mr Thornton for several years because Goldman Sachs is adviser to Storehouse, Ms Iverson's previous employer.

It is understood that Ms Iverson employed the services of Goldman Sachs during negotiations over her appointment at Laura Ashley, which resulted in a package worth £3.4 million in pay, benefits and bonuses over three years if a series of performance targets are hit.

Building society payouts to be taxed

By Anne Ashworth

PAYOUTS made to the savers and borrowers of building societies that convert or merge are to be subject to tax, either as capital gains or as income, it was announced yesterday. The Inland Revenue ruling has implications for the 18 million members of societies in the process of converting to banks, or being taken over.

The Inland Revenue said also that cashbacks, sweeteners of as much as £10,000 offered by societies and other lenders to make their mortgages more attractive would be free of tax. This is a change of heart: previously the taxman had said that each scheme would be assessed separately.

The Halifax, the Alliance & Leicester and the Woolwich are set to become banks next year, while the National & Provincial is being swallowed by the Abbey National. The Cheltenham & Gloucester passed into the control of Lloyds Bank last year in a deal giving cash payouts as large as £14,000. Such payments will be subject to capital gains.

The Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester members are to be given free shares which will also attract capital gains tax, but only when they are sold. In both cases, individuals can reduce their bills by using their annual capital gains tax exemption of £6,000 (£6,300 from April).

Members of a society merging with another will have to pay income tax on their payments.

CBI finds a slump in orders

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

MANUFACTURING orders are at their lowest for well over two years, according to evidence today from the Confederation of British Industry.

However, companies' expectations for output growth remain high, the CBI says in its latest monthly industrial trends survey.

City analysts will see such low levels of orders as further evidence for another interest rate cut, though Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, expects the economy to pick up towards the end of the year.

Looking at more than 1,000 manufacturing companies, the CBI's survey for March shows that manufacturers' total order books weakened again, and are now at their lowest for a monthly CBI survey since December 1993.

The net balance of firms reporting order books below normal was -15 per cent in March, slightly worse than the -14 per cent last month and the -13 per cent in January, and continuing a downward trend that began last September.

Overseas demand also weakened. Export order books are now running at their lowest level for two years, since March 1994, and are now considered below normal by a net balance of -5 per cent of companies surveyed. This compares with a positive balance of 1 per cent last month.

Such demand is not reflected in the relative optimism in manufacturers' expectations on output growth. A net 24 per cent expect output to rise, against 20 per cent last month and 16 per cent in January.

Sudhir Junankar, CBI associate economic analysis director, says that the pick-up on output expectations suggests growing short-term confidence among companies, but adds: "With firms also continuing to report excessive stocks of finished goods, the output optimism seen in this survey could be more fragile than companies expect."

Turner: forecasts pick-up

National Provident Institution
Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 160th Annual General Meeting of members of National Provident Institution will be held at the City Conference Centre, 76 Mark Lane, London EC3, on Wednesday, 17 April 1996, at 12.00 noon, for the transaction of the following ordinary business:

* To receive and adopt the Accounts and Report of the Directors for the year ended 31 December 1995:
* To reappoint as a Director, Mr A C Barker.
* To reappoint as a Director, Mr J D Carter.
* To reappoint as a Director, Baroness Hogg.
* To reappoint as a Director, Mr L J Martin.
* To reappoint as a Director, Mr D J M Roberts.
* To reappoint as a Director, Mr J J H Wormell.
(All of the above Directors are members of the Remuneration Committee)
* To reappoint Coopers & Lybrand as Auditors and to authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration.
* To increase the upper limit of each Non-Executive Director's basic fee to £25,000 per annum, and subject to this limit, to authorise the Directors to determine the rate of the basic fee.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD: Steven O'Brien, Company Secretary.
Principal Office: National Provident House, 55 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE.

NOTE: A member entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and, on a poll, to vote instead of him or her. A proxy need not be a member of NPI. Proxy forms are available on request from the Company Secretary at the Principal Office. Completed proxy forms must be deposited at the Principal Office not later than 12 noon on 15 April 1996.

NPI
PROVIDING PENSIONS SINCE 1835

If you would like a copy of NPI's Report and Accounts 1995, write to John Fisher, NPI, GV02C, National Provident House, 55 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2UE

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TUC urges restraint on minimum pay

TRADE unions should not expect a future Labour government to give them the right to dictate the level of the national minimum wage, John Monks, General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said yesterday. Unions should not become part of a "crisis of overblown expectations", he told a conference in Dundee of GMB union members from the textile industry. "We cannot hand in a shopping list and expect to go straight to the checkout counter. The TUC has recognised that a Labour government will be responsible for fixing the level of the minimum wage in the light of all the economic circumstances prevailing at the time."

But trade unions would expect Labour to push through early legislation to improve conditions for workers, he said. "Matters such as the national minimum wage should not be neglected when the new cabinet draws up its first Queen's Speech." Mr Monks said that, using the TUC formula, the national minimum wage could range from £3.60 to £4.20.

Forsyth jury still out

JURORS in the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, former aide to Asil Nadir, were sent home for a second night after again failing to reach verdicts. Deliberations resume this morning. The judge, Mr Justice Tucker, told jurors that they should try to reach unanimous verdicts, but he was prepared to accept a 10:2 majority. Mrs Forsyth, 59, of Great Dunmow, Essex, denies two counts of handling nearly £400,000 in funds allegedly stolen by Mr Nadir from Polly Peck International.

Servisair optimistic

SERVISAIR, the airport services and cargo handling company, said that while charter carriers are proposing cutbacks, scheduled operators still projected growth, and cargo volumes are expected to rise, leaving the company otimistic about prospects. In 1995 profits were £6 million (£4.3 million) before tax and exceptional items. Earnings were 10.67p a share, compared with an adjusted 9.3p. A 2.9p final makes a 4.3p total, compared with a notional 3.8p for 1994.

Receivers in at retailer

ABOUT 300 jobs are at risk after the appointment of receivers at Everything's a £, the discount retailer of giftware, food and cleaning products. The chain was founded in 1992, based on America's dollar-store concept. The first of 27 stores opened in Gateshead. Although turnover has risen to £12 million a year, the business has lost £2 million since inception. Scott Barnes, head of corporate recovery at Grant Thornton, said talks were under way with potential buyers.

Bid for Thornton unit

TR PACIFIC Investment Trust yesterday launched a hostile bid for Thornton's Asian Emerging Markets Investment Trust. TR Pacific, which has £155 million under management compared with Thornton Asian's £140 million, is offering Thornton investors new TR Pacific Ordinary shares or a cash alternative. Thornton Asian had already announced plans to restructure following a period of underperformance against regional benchmarks and other similar trusts.

Cattles achieves 42% rise

CATTLES, the financial services group, achieved a 42 per cent rise, to £28.2 million, in profits before tax and exceptional items in 1995. The company's Shopacheck, Britain's second-largest weekly collected credit company, has 3,000 agents and, before the year end, acquired almost £4 million of book debt and a further 12,000 customers. Earnings per share rose to 14p, from an adjusted 11.3p. The total dividend rises to 6.9p (5.75p) with a 4.45p final. The shares rose 5p, to 240p.

Rea Brothers ahead

REA BROTHERS, the banking and financial services group, yesterday announced a 15 per cent increase in profits to £1.3 million, from £1.16 million, but held the total dividend at 1p, with a 0.5p final. During 1995, Rea launched two new investment trusts through Finsbury Asset Management, including the Finsbury Technology Trust. Earnings per share advanced to 2.08p, against 2.01p last time. The shares fell 1p to 59p.

Dresdner Bank search

PUBLIC prosecutors in Germany yesterday revealed that tax officers had searched Dresdner Bank's main office in Hamburg and several branches. Prosecutor Ruediger Bagger declined to give details about the search, saying the investigation was continuing. It is the sixth big raid in a two-year investigation at Germany's second largest bank. Employees at the bank have been suspected of aiding clients in avoiding tax payments by moving funds abroad.

Manders fights slump

SHARES of Manders fell 12p to 313p yesterday after the international coatings and printing inks specialist said that its markets remain depressed and selling prices are under intense pressure. Roy Amos, chairman, said sales in the first two months of the current year were in line with 1995. He expressed confidence in achieving organic growth in 1996. In 1995 pre-tax profits rose 4 per cent to £12.3 million. A final dividend of 8.4p lifts the total to 11.5p from 11p.

Logica wins CAA deal

LOGICA, the computer services group, is today expected to announce it has won a £3.5 million consultancy contract from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Logica has signed a deal with the CAA to provide strategic consultancy for the research and development directorate of the National Air Traffic Service (NATS) over a two-year period. As leader of the ATC Research Consortium, Logica will support research into the development of future air traffic control concepts.

☐ Top men leave a water industry at low ebb ☐ Power struggle thats holds key to inflation ☐ Stock Exchange takes the plunge

Out at the deep end

☐ LAST summer Mike Hoffman was the shiny, bright face of the water industry. While he was touring the offices of opinion formers spreading the gospel, Trevor Newton was holed up in Yorkshire, the dirty face of the industry, trying not to use any of the precious stuff to wash in. This week they were as one as the unacceptable faces of an industry that might not be able to supply 18 million households this year, whether we have the worst drought for 401 years or not.

Thames Water announced yesterday that Mr Clean is to leave his post as chief executive under a rain cloud while Mr Dirty said on Monday that he was going to take an early bath.

At Thames, where the proud boast — shouted loud by Mr Hoffman — was that there were no water restrictions last summer or any recent summer since its ring main was operational, Mr Hoffman, an engineer at heart, is now surplus to requirements. The company will not need a chief executive any more and will not be seeking a replacement.

What Thames, Yorkshire and all the other water companies need is someone to make them bid-proof. As Severn Trent was telling the Stock Exchange that it too wants to bid for South West Water, the company that managed to lose a reservoir and separately poison customers paying the highest water bills in the country, Thames was taking a £95 million one-off hit. This, remarkably, included £30 million of goodwill, a commodity that many thought had run out long ago in the industry. Thames is now to stick to its core utility business — no more forays into India and other far-flung places to try to teach water preservation and distribution. Nine businesses are being sold after costing £26 million in losses last year.

Yorkshire might also try this novel approach of ensuring that all its customers have water delivered to their home without restriction and without the use of tankers instead of trying to sell its expertise abroad. Northumbrian, provider of the water that kept Yorkshire afloat, has already fallen to the French.

The battle between Wessex, Severn Trent and whoever else decides to take a pop at South West Water is likely to be lengthy as the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ponders whether customers will be disadvantaged by having their water supplied by a giant instead of a minnow.

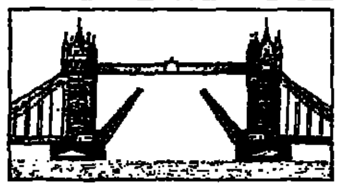
Meanwhile, the Water Services Association loses its chairman in Mr Hoffman, and must seek a new honest face to explain why we will not have enough water this summer unless we have a miserable wet spring. The answer will have nothing to do with leaking pipes not being repaired, nor lack of capital investment. The need for universal water meters, and the heavy investment that would require from the companies is also likely to be avoided, as the industry does not want to pay.

But whoever gets the job should be in line for a big pay off sooner or later.

Underlying gloom

☐ IT IS a mark of how good Britain's inflation performance has been over the past couple of years that a tiny rise in the underlying rate yesterday was greeted with resignation and gloom in the City: gloom because it is obvious, isn't it, that inflation is coming back with a vengeance; resignation because Kenneth Clarke is going to cut interest rates again anyway to close the opinion poll gap.

PENNINGTON



In fact, there was lots of good news on the inflation front in yesterday's figures and in statisticians' view of the outlook in the months ahead. There was precious little bounce back in prices for clothing and footwear and household goods in February after record-breaking price discounts in the January sales. The annual rate of services inflation fell to 2.1 per cent, the same level as in December. But the rate in both these months was the lowest since May 1986.

And the supermarket price wars continue. The major chains are daggers drawn on petrol and there are more price cuts to come. There is still fierce competition too on selected food brands. Tinned baked beans, we are told, is the next big fight looming. Washing up liquid is another field of battle. And, in the months to come, there will be more good news on the mortgage front. This reflects not only a drive by lenders to restart the housing market but the intensifying ideological battle lines being drawn between mutuality and public and bank ownership of building societies.

Prospects for inflation depend crucially on whether we are finally beginning to see a shift in the balance of power between consumers and retailers. Up to now, the recovery has seen the consumer absolutely dominant over hard-pressed retailers. Every time retailers have been tempted to raise their prices, the consumer has promptly walked away. Yesterday's figures were seen by some in the City as the first tentative sign that consumers have become confident enough to accept modest price increases. Others guess that the price rises, as so often before in this recovery, will not stick.

The answer to these questions rest in consumer psychology and that is a notoriously difficult science to master.

Order matching ahoy

☐ NO ONE (let alone an incumbent chief executive) can ever be quite sure what a Stock Exchange board meeting might portend but, mercifully, the outcome of yesterday's gathering was much in line with recent market intelligence.

The brave new world of "order matching" trading, in contrast to the traditional "quote driven" system, is on the way, albeit somewhat later than Michael Lawrence, the Stock Exchange's former chief executive, originally envisaged. Last November the message was that order driven trading would arrive in August when Sequence VI, the new electronic trading platform, goes live. Sequence VI remains on schedule but the introduction of order matching has been postponed until the spring of 1997, pending a "final decision".

The Stock Exchange has always been coy about how many stocks would be covered by the system favoured by some, but by no means all, end users. After dwelling on the top 350 companies, the Tower has finally settled for the FT-SE 100 counters, with an option to extend coverage.

This, in turn, will be combined with "block trading" which will permit "large players to continue to take risks and commit capital". For "large players" read the market-makers who, as before, will provide liquidity at a price.

Talks with the Treasury, the SIB, the OFT and the SFA start shortly. Precious little has been said about the benefits or otherwise for the private investor, a factor that the authorities might wish to bear in mind.

Hard sell

☐ *Overcharging* by JR Hartley should be the next book to be promoted by those fey television advertisements for Yellow Pages. Yesterday the BT subsidiary, renowned for helping us find the better things in life, was rapped by the Monopolies Commission for acting against the public interest in overcharging for its advertisements and exploiting its monopoly position. Not quite the values extolled by Mr Hartley.

BET targets £142m to foil Rentokil

By Alasdair Murray

BET yesterday hit back at Rentokil's £1.9 billion takeover bid, forecasting a 28 per cent increase in full-year profits at £142 million before tax.

BET shares rose 3p to close at 203p, their highest level since the bid was launched last month as the City speculated Rentokil would now have to return with a higher offer. Rentokil shares rose also, by 6.5p to 354p, valuing the bid at 198p a share. Yesterday Rentokil shareholders voted in favour of the bid at an extraordinary meeting.

BET promised a dividend forecast for 1997 by the close of the bid period and repeated its commitment to raise the dividend by 27.5 per cent to 5.1p a share for the year ended March 1996. The company also predicted a 10 per cent increase in group turnover to £1.94 billion.

John Clark, chief executive, said: "This is tangible proof that BET is delivering on promises. These results demonstrate that BET has an exciting independent future and that Rentokil's offer is wholly inadequate." Sir Christopher Harding, chairman, further described the Rentokil bid as reminiscent of a 1980's conglomerate bid with little overlap, strategy or value.

But Clive Thompson, Rentokil chief executive, said: "If this is the best the BET board can do, we continue to wonder why it doesn't recommend our offer." Rentokil claimed the profit forecast was barely above previously forecast levels and did not contain the 10 per cent uplift the market had been anticipating. Rentokil now has until Easter to increase its offer, with analysts forecasting a bid would need to be pitched at about 220p a share.

BET concentrated its fire on Rentokil's 179.5p cash offer. The sum represents a price earnings multiple of 16.6 times forecast earnings a share and stood at a 32 per cent discount to Rentokil's own market rating. The company also pointed out the offer price valued the BET element of a merged group as only 33 per cent of the total, although BET would be providing 42 per cent of the profit.

Tempus, page 26

Irish Life to offer new deals

By Marianne Curphey

IRISH LIFE is to spend Ir£10 million to contact 110,000 policyholders whose unit-linked savings plans have produced disappointing returns to offer them alternative investments.

Each policy's return will be assessed individually and savers, most of whom bought their plan in the late 1980s and 1990s, will be given the chance to switch to a product giving a guaranteed return.

Irish Life, Ireland's largest life assurance company, announced yesterday it had increased its embedded value earnings, or profits, by 22 per cent in 1995 to Ir£89 million. New business (premium income) rose by 8 per cent to Ir£405 million.

Earnings rose from Ir11.22p a share to Ir11.59 and the total dividend is Ir14.02p, up from Ir12.98p.

The shares closed with a gain of 3p to 263p.

APV goes back into the black

By Sarah Cunningham

APV, maker of food and drink processing equipment, reported a return to profit yesterday, demonstrating the benefits of a restructuring programme launched in January last year.

Sir Peter Cazalet, chairman, announced he will retire on September 30. He will be succeeded by Mike Smith, an executive director of BTR until last September.

APV made a pre-tax profit of £26.9 million last year, compared with a loss of £18.2 million. The improvement reflects higher margins and earnings from disposals. The company said its increased profitability should make up for a 5 per cent fall in the value of orders received in the first two months of this year.

Final restructuring this and next year meant an exceptional charge of £10.5 million for 1995 compared with £32.5 million. There is an unchanged full-year dividend of 2.7p.

Tempus, page 26

Grattan stake sold

By Martin Barrow

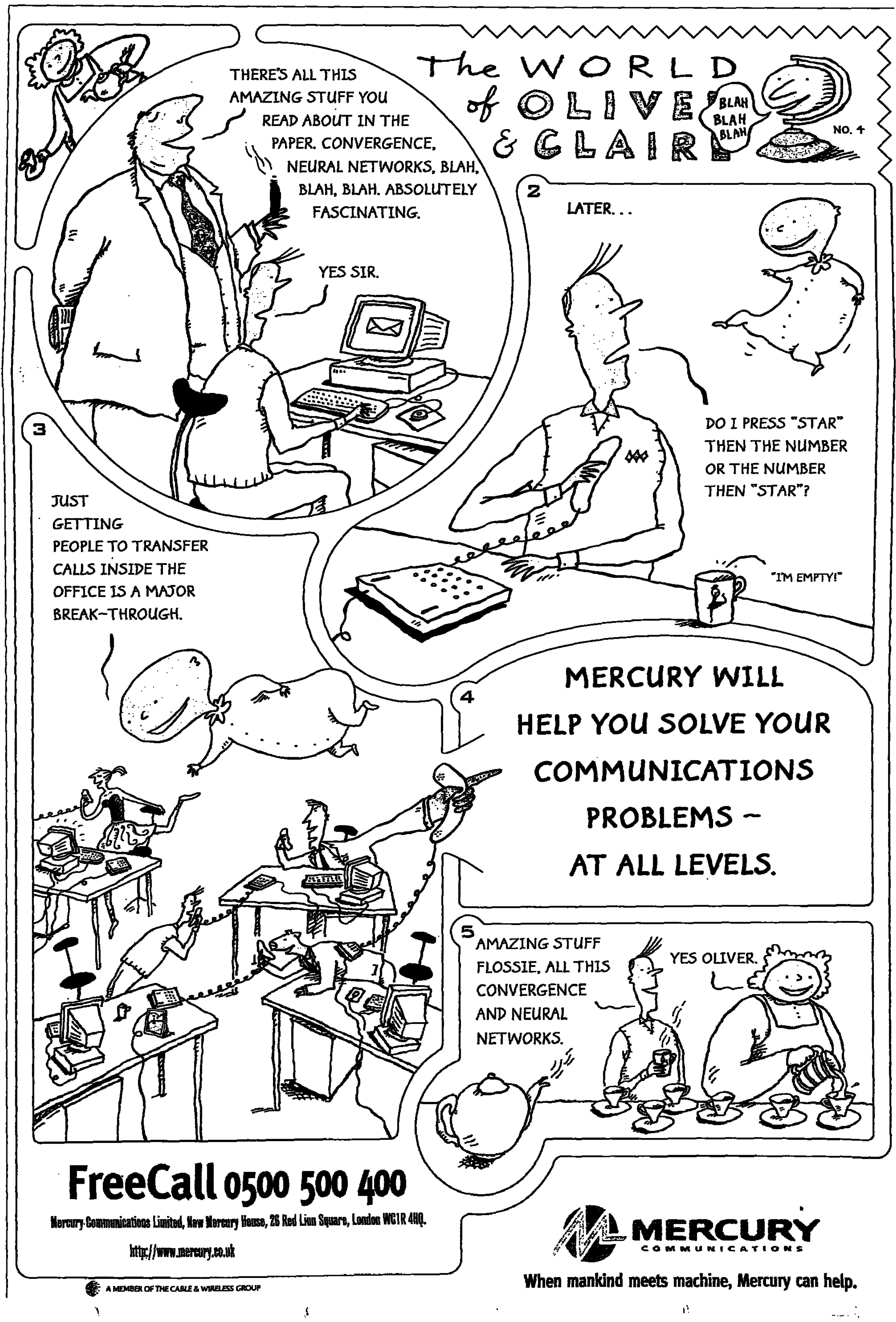
THE 15 per cent stake in Grattan, the catalogue and mail order business, owned by Fine Art Developments, the UK greeting card company, is being sold to Otto Versand, the German retail group, for about £25 million.

Fine Art will receive an initial consideration of £12.2 million later this month, with the balance due in March next year.

The Grattan interest was acquired by Fine Art during 1991 and 1992, and the cost of the investment was £12.02 million. The proceeds of the sale will be used to reduce bank borrowings. Shares in Fine Art rose 1p to 429p yesterday.

Fine Art, which sells a wide range of merchandise through mail order catalogues, saw profits stagnate at £38 million before tax in the last full financial year and has been exploring ways to develop the business in the face of difficult trading conditions.

In the first half of the current year, the company reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £6.2 million, from £5.78 million.


The WORLD of OLIVER & CLAIRE
BLAH BLAH BLAH
NO. 4
THERE'S ALL THIS AMAZING STUFF YOU READ ABOUT IN THE PAPER. CONVERGENCE, NEURAL NETWORKS, BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. ABSOLUTELY FASCINATING.
YES SIR.
2
LATER...
DO I PRESS "STAR" THEN THE NUMBER OR THE NUMBER THEN "STAR"?
"I'M EMPTY!"
3
JUST GETTING PEOPLE TO TRANSFER CALLS INSIDE THE OFFICE IS A MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH.
4
MERCURY WILL HELP YOU SOLVE YOUR COMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS – AT ALL LEVELS.
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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Severn joins Wessex in battle for South West

THE water companies provided a fair sprinkling of interest for City speculators as the prospect of a battle for control of South West Water loomed large. After months of inactivity they are showing signs of springing back into life, with a number expected to suffer the same fate as the regional electricity companies.

Shares of **South West** surged 44p to 650p after Severn Trent, its rival, slung its hat into the ring by announcing that it is seeking regulatory approval to launch a bid. South West is already the subject of an approach from Wessex Water, its next-door neighbour.

Last night City speculators were licking their lips at the prospect of an auction developing. They claim the terms from Wessex are likely to value the deal at around £700 million. Severn has already indicated that any bid it makes for SWW is likely to be made up entirely of cash.

Both predators must now wait to see if they will be given the all-clear to make a move. The general view is that the bids will receive the go-ahead, but that the regulator may demand certain conditions are met. **Wessex** finished 7p cheaper at 331p, while **Severn Trent** dropped 21p to 618p.

Elsewhere in the sector, **Thames Water** stood out with a rise of 17p to 575p as the City gave the thumbs-up to wide-ranging proposals aimed at restructuring the group.

Thames intends to refocus on its core utility operations and international projects, but it is withdrawing from design and construction. The move is expected to cost the group £95 million in write-offs. Michael Hoffman has resigned as chief executive.

There was selective support for the other water companies, with **Southern** adding 24p to 747p, **Welsh Water** 8p to 749p, and **Yorkshire** 15p to 635p.

The rest of the equity market succeeded in breaching the 3,700 level, albeit briefly, having reached a high for the day of 3,702.3. The FT-SE 100 index finished 12.9 points up at 3,698.3 despite a lacklustre performance by the bond market and an opening fall of more than 30 points by the Dow Jones average on Wall Street. In all, 842 million shares changed hands.

Vodafone was a firm market, rising 3½p to 248p ahead of the deadline, later today, of the Orange retail offer. The imminent flotation of Orange has crystallised the value of the other mobile phone operators and led to some of them being rerated.

Full-year figures from **Guinness** received a lukewarm reception from brokers, with the shares nursing a fall of 11½p at 460½p. Trading conditions in the drinks industry remain difficult, with the group having to suffer patchy demand and rising advertising and market expenditure. This was reflected in a pre-tax profit shortfall of £39 million at £876 million. Brokers say it is difficult to get excited about prospects for Guinness in the current year.

Ladbroke continued to attract speculative support, with the price firming 2p to 190p. Recent talk in the marketplace has suggested a full bid from either Bass, which already owns the Holiday Inn chain, or the Hilton Hotel Group in the US. Now there is a suggestion that **Scottish & Newcastle**, ½p lighter at 648½p, *may link up with* Hilton and buy the group's chain of betting shops, leaving Hilton with the hotels.

BET has fired off another salvo in its effort to remain independent. As part of its attempt to fend off Rentokil's £1.8 billion bid, it is forecasting a near 30 per cent rise in profits and dividends. Pre-tax profits are set to rise from £111 million to £142 million, substantially above current market forecasts of £135 million. Shareholders are to be rewarded with a 5.1p dividend, up from 4p last time. It described the Rentokil bid as "wholly inadequate".

Brokers say the hot money is banking on a win for Rentokil. They claim a modest increase in the terms to around 215p a share would guarantee victory. **Rentokil** responded with a rise of 6½p to 354p, valuing the terms for Rentokil at 197.5p. **BET** finished 3p firmer at 203p.

There was a clutch of companies making their stock market debut. The biggest was Fulmar, the contract printer, *which was launched by Mike Taylor, chief executive, at the height of the miners' strike in* the 1970s with the help of a £4,000 loan.

After being offered at 154p, the shares started life yesterday at 183p and ended the session at 186p, a healthy premium of 28p. At these levels, the group is capitalised at £58.26 million. Almost three million shares were traded.

First-time dealings in **Triad**, the software systems consultant, also got off to a positive start following a placing at 135p. The shares opened at 173p before closing at a peak of 178p, a premium of 43p, capitalising the company at around £45 million.

Silver Shield, the windscreen replacement specialist, opened at 3½p before settling at 3¾p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices marked time for much of the session with investors apparently reluctant to continue chasing the market higher. Dealers say the London market continues to reflect bond movements in the US, where the recent strong run shows signs of coming to a halt.

The latest inflation numbers were much in line with forecasts and did little to influence investors one way or the other.

In the futures market, the June series of the Long Gilt made little headway firming just a tick to close at £105¹¹⁄₃₂ with a total of 48,000 contracts completed.

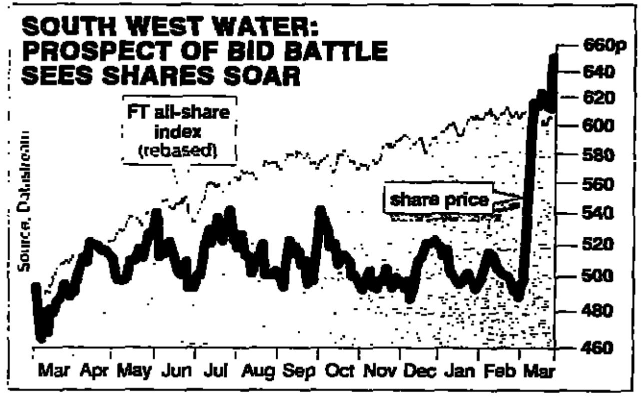
Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 hardened £⅛ to £97³⁄₁₆, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £⅛ better at £102¹³⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street went into what one investment strategist described as neutral mode and shares were mixed. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 13.73 points at 5,641.69.

Some water companies could find themselves reshaped

After reaching a new high of 507p earlier this week, Rank Organisation closed last night 8p down at 499p as turnover reached more than two million shares. Word is that County NatWest, the broker, has turned bearish and feels the shares are due for a correction.

SOUTH WEST WATER: PROSPECT OF BID BATTLE SEES SHARES SOAR



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5641.69 (+13.73)
S&P Composite	650.36 (+0.38)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	20727.53 (+284.93)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	11027.96 (+191.43)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	537.21 (-0.51)

Sydney:

AO	2262.9 (+13.5)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2504.12 (+18.22)

Singapore:

Straits	2422.80 (+38.84)

Brussels:

General	8750.07 (+27.12)

Paris:

CAC-40	1976.89 (+7.10)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	765.30 (-1.90)

London:

FT 30	2769.3 (+12.9)
FT 100	3698.3 (+12.9)
FT-SE Mid 250	4297.4 (+15.2)
FT-SE-A 350	1860.5 (+6.5)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1610.28 (-1.98)
FT A All-Share	1839.6 (+6.12)
FT Non Financials	1998.85 (+5.13)
FT Fixed Interest	110.89 (+0.11)
FT Govt Secs	92.66 (+0.21)
Bargains	40076
SEAQ Volume	842.0m
USM (Datastrm)	205.87 (-0.66)
US$	1.5372 (+0.0009)
German Mark	2.2697 (+0.0001)
Exchange Index	84.0 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1985
£:SDR	1.0503
RPI	150.9 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	150.2 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brmd) A	514	- 2
Clubhaus Wts	3	...
Freepages (12)	14½	- ½
Fulmar (154)	186	...
IOC Intl	130	...
Int Btech Tst C (100)	100	...
Life Off Opps (100)	52	- ½
M & G Equity Cap	22½	...
M & G Equity Div	90	...
M & G Equity Inc	43½	...
Macdonald Htl (145)	190	+ 1
Marine & Merc (125)	125	...
Perp Inc Gth Ut (500)	509	...
Primary Hlth (100)	103	- 2
Saracen Value C	97	...
Schroder UK G Uts	255½	...
Silver Shield Gp (3)	3¾	...
Stadium Group (120)	136	- 4
Streamline (180)	175	...
Triad Group (135)	178	...
Visual Action (185)	242	+ 10

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Tomkinsons	234p (+26p)
Blagden	160p (+14p)
Acorn Comp	214p (+16p)
Wassall	310p (+23p)
REA	210p (+15p)
Young 'A'	550p (+37p)
Nthn Foods	204p (+10p)
Whatman	398p (+19p)
Visual Action	242p (+10p)
Smithkline	684p (+23p)
Andrew Sykes	255p (+10p)
Smith WH	437p (+13p)
Close Bros	369p (+10p)
Abbott Mead	569p (+15p)
Siebe	853p (+19p)
Morgan Cble	428p (+14p)
Man Utd	260p (+9p)
Br Land	392p (+9p)
Nat Express	486p (+9p)
Glaxo Wellcome	819p (+14p)
REXAM	392p (+12p)

FALLS:

Go-Ahead	309p (-35p)
Mitel	398p (-17p)
Manders	313p (-12p)
Tibbett & Brittn	428p (-15p)
BOC	888p (-17p)
GUS	670p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Good for Guinness?

GUINNESS seems to have taken its latest advertising slogan — "Not everything in black and white makes sense" — too literally. Guinness prides itself on its marketing wizardry and chose yesterday to reveal to the world for the first time just how much it is spending on those tricksy ads for the black brew and on other drink promotions. However, the £500 million that the company poured into stunts such as St Patrick's Day parties and the "Red Hot, Red Label" whisky campaign in Latin America did little to detract attention from a shrinking bottom line.

Guinness did provide evidence that better performance from the Johnnie Walker whisky brands was a direct result of increased marketing spend over the past few years. However, the general impression is that Guinness is spending a lot of money just to stand still. The lukewarm trading statement gave little indication that allocating a bigger budget to the men in ponytails this year would greatly improve performance, and market forecasts were trimmed to around £980 million.

It is not just Guinness that is suffering in a fickle global drinks market, and, compared to many of its rivals, the company is in good shape. Guinness believes that the industry is at a watershed, with huge investment needed to build leading brands in the mature Western markets and to get a toehold in developing economies. In the meantime, strong cash flow means that shareholders will not go empty-handed and could be rewarded with a share buy-back. And, if the company's analysis is correct, Guinness will reap the benefits of its marketing spend in the medium term.

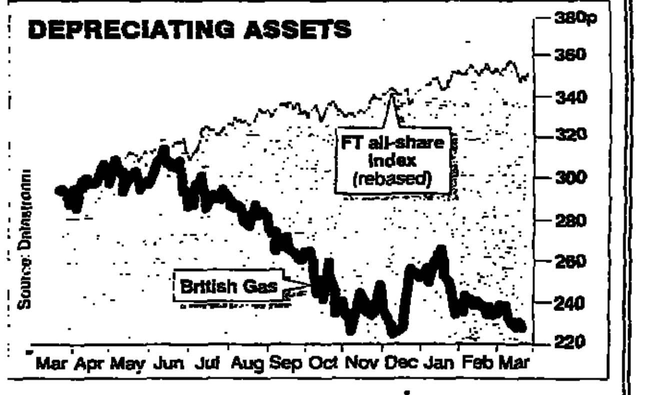
British Gas

BRITISH GAS investors are left none the wiser after Transco's submission to Ofgas yesterday. Capital expenditure and depreciation forecasts confirmed that the company will still be writing down its pipeline assets at a higher rate than it invests well into the next century. That is already a bone of contention between Transco and the shippers who contend that the pipelines system is worth about a third of the £18 billion price tag from which Transco is writing off some £900 million per year.

Ofgas would like to see some of the cash benefit of lower levels of investment come back to the consumer but so far is remaining coy about whether or not it accepts Transco's valuation of the assets. The company is vehemently defending shareholders' right to the cash. It is scarcely surprising that Ofgas prefers the "pay as you go" approach to capex to Transco's smoothing of the cost over decades. By the time renewal of the pipeline network becomes a live issue, free competition will have removed most of the controversy over the pricing of gas to consumers.

The irony in all this is that pipelines represent only 40 per cent of the cost of gas to households. Were the oil companies to renegotiate their take or pay contracts with British Gas, some 5p per therm could be passed on to consumers, reducing bills by almost 10 per cent. However, oil companies are free agents: only Transco is regulated.

DEPRECIATING ASSETS



APV

NEIL FRENCH has delivered all that the APV board could have expected of him when he stepped in as chief executive in October 1994, at the processing engineering company's lowest point.

His first move was to stem the slide in operating margins, launching a restructuring programme funded by the sale of seven non-core businesses. Having completed the disposals, the restructuring is on track and yesterday's announcement of a pre-tax profit of £26.9 million compared to a 1994 loss of £18.2 million confirmed that emergency surgery has worked.

Improved margins were the best news, and they look likely to improve further this year. A 5 per cent decrease in orders at the beginning of this year is mainly due to shrinkage of the business after the disposals.

But the longer term question is whether, once APV has completed its restructuring at the end of next year, it will have an expanding market to serve. Fierce competition in retailing is discouraging food companies from investing in equipment and the industry is already oversupplied. Meanwhile, competition rules make consolidation or mergers a difficult route.

In the next two years much will depend on consumers: will they want plain foods at low prices, or will they follow fads, meaning a demand for equipment from APV to produce fancy new foods and drinks? If you think the fads will prevail, then APV could be a buy but it will still be fighting for every order.

BET

FOR a company under threat of takeover, BET produced a remarkably sober profit forecast. Its estimate of a 28 per cent boost to pre-tax profits was only some 3 per cent ahead of some analysts' forecasts, not enough to do more than nudge the share price ahead by 3p.

The reaction suggests that much of the growth trumpeted by BET yesterday was in the price. Bid targets generally load their forecasts with a layer of judicious optimism, releasing some of the profit that might be withheld in a cautious provision. At yesterday's closing price of 203p, BET is valued on almost 19 times its forecast earnings, a reasonable premium for a collection of dull businesses. There is therefore little incentive for Rentokil to substantially increase its offer and BET investors can best hope for a sweetener.

The bigger question is whether BET investors should hold out for Rentokil shares or sell in the market. Rentokil will be hard pressed to bring BET's modest margins up to its own level and success in this bid could damage the extravagant rating of Rentokil shares.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	976-980	May	974-971
May	980-980	Jul	unq
Jul	910-909	Sep	
Sep	930-929	Dec	
Dec	943-940		
Mar	962-959		Volume: 7079

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2035-2031	Nov	1795-1792
May	1897-1895	Jan	1769-1768
Jul	1836-1837	Mar	1742-1735
Sep	1816-1812		Volume: 3276

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	326.5-23.5
Spot: 407.5		Mar	318.5-17.5
May	395.0-94.0	May	314.5-13.5
Aug	372.5-72.0	Aug	unq
Oct	336.5-35.5		Volume: 1974

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 20

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	110.45	150.12	114.71
(+/-)	+0.70	+15.85	-4.67
Eng/Wales:	110.43	158.40	114.24
(+/-)	+0.70	+17.23	-4.96
(%)	-2.0	+17.0	+16.0
Scotland:	unq	153.76	117.28
(+/-)		+14.83	-3.34
(%)		+74.0	+42.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	20.40	-0.25
Brent 15 day (Apr)	18.60	-0.30
Brent 15 day (May)	17.85	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	20.95	-0.25
W Texas Intermediate (May)	19.65	-0.20

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 199 (n/c)	O: 200 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	196 (n/c)	198 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Apr	185 (-4)	187 (-4)
Non EEC 1H May	171 (-2)	173 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	107 (-1)	109 (-1)
Naphtha	173 (+1)	174 (+1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	179.75-80.00	Jul	155.75-56.25
May	166.75-67.00	Aug	155.25-55.50
Jun	159.75-60.00		Vol: 18166

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	18.79-18.80	Aug	16.92 BID
Jun	17.85-17.88	Sep	n/a
Jul	17.22 BID		Vol: 27845

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	119.20	Mar	109.00
May	121.00	May	109.40
Jul	112.90	Sep	105.95
Sep	110.40	Nov	108.05
Nov	111.70	Jan	110.00
Volume: 380		Volume: 24	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	153.0	158.3
May	163.0	164.9
Jun	unq	225.0
		Volume: 70

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Apr 105.00-105.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 96	1450	1448	1446
Apr 96	1540	1520	1523
May 96	1480	1469	1469
Jul 96	1340	1335	1335
Vol: 167 lots		Open Interest: 5159	

Index 1417 +9

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2547.0-2547.5	2540.0-2541.0	1253625
Lead ($/tonne)	899.00-899.50	811.00-812.00	322025
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1071.0-1072.0	1094.0-1095.0	328500
Tin ($/tonne)	6335.0-6345.0	6360.0-6370.0	53840
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1635.0-1637.0	1667.0-1667.5	1138450
Nickel ($/tonne)	8295.0-8296.0	8390.0-8395.0	70218

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	500	14½	24	37	9	22½	26½
(*503)	550	1	8	18	46½	50	61
Argyll	300	10	23½	29	2	11	15
(*313)	330	2½	9	14½	18	29	32
ASDA	100	6	10	12½	1	6	6
(*104)	110	1	4	5	6	9	11
Boots	600	15	25	37	9	24	30
(*619)	650	1	9	17	47	53	62½
Br Airways	500	30½	41	49	2	14	19
(*526½)	550	4	14	23	26	39	45
BP	550	19½	31	41	9½	16	21
(*562)	600	1½	10½	19	38	44	49½
Br Steel	180	21	25	29½	0½	6	7½
(*200)	200	6	12	14½	5	14	16
C & W	460	34	46½	56	5	15	20½
(*490½)	500	10	26	40	15	33	40
CU	550	34	54	60½	2	9	17½
(*584½)	600	8	24	32½	21	30	41
ICI	900	45	70	82	7½	20	32½
(*934½)	950	15½	40½	54	27½	40	55½
Kingfisher	500	43	47	56½	2½	11	17
(*541)	550	7½	39	29½	23	34	40½
Land Sec	600	24	32	36	2	16	20½
(*619)	650	1	8	14½	31	49½	52
M & S	420	15½	24	30	3	13½	17
(*432)	460	1	7	12½	29½	36½	41
Nat West	600	44	63	71	3	12	21
(*640)	650	12	32	43	20½	32	42½
Sainsbury	360	20	29	32	2	10	17½
(*376)	390	3½	10	17	16	27	29½
Shell	800	51	51	60	4	12	20
(*848½)	850	4	21	31	24	36	43½
SmKl Bch	650	35	52	63	9½	16½	24
(*670)	700	10½	26½	39	29	40½	49
Storehse	300	10	20	27	11	15	20
(*300)	360	1	3	14	27	31	36
Trafalgar	15	4	4	4	0	0	0
(*18½)	20	0½	1½	0	1½	1½	1½
Unilever	1200	49	61	83	10	21	29
(*1242½)	1250	15	36	58	28	47	53
Zeneca	1300	62	100	125	13	37	50
(*1344)	1350	32½	50	100	33	58	72

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	420	26	34	42½	7	15½	21
(*434)	460	8	15	23	29	37	41
Ladbroke	180	19	27	29½	6½	11	14
(*190)	200	9	16	19	16	21	24½
Utd Bisc	240	10½	20½	24	9	13	17
(*240½)	260	4	12½	17	22½	25	29

March 21 1996 Tot. [illegible] Call. [illegible] Put [illegible] FT-SE Call: 1460 Put: [illegible]
*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	42	50	58½	0½	6½	10½
(*539½)	550	7	19	29	16	27	31½
Thames W.	550	30½	40	46	3	17	21
(*575)	600	5½	14½	21	27½	46	49½

Series		May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	460	43½	56	60	4	15	18½
(*493½)	500	21	32½	38	19½	32	36½
BTR	330	6	14	17½	12½	16½	22
(*332)	360	0½	4½	7½	39	39½	42½
Br Aero	850	43	71½	82	19½	34½	44
(*869)	900	20	46	61½	46½	59½	66
Br Telecm	330	19	28	30½	5	13½	16½
(*340½)	360	5½	13	16½	21½	31	34
Cadbury	500	30	44	52	10	16	22½
(*516½)	550	7½	21½	28	37	42½	48½
Guinness	460	11½	22½	29½	18½	24	29
(*460½)	500	3½	9½	14	52	53	55½
GEC	360	18½	25	30½	6	16	19
(*368½)	390	5	10½	16½	25	33½	36
Hanson	180	12	16	19½	3	6	10
(*188½)	200	3	7	10½	13½	17½	21½
LASMO	180	14	20½	24	8	10	12½
(*184½)	200	6½	12	15	19	21	24
Lucas	200	14½	21	24½	5	8½	12½
(*209)	220	5	11½	15	16	19	23½
Pilkingtn	210	10	16½	—	6½	12½	—
(*212)	229	3	9½	—	18	23½	—
Prudential	420	28½	40	46½	5	16	22
(*447½)	460	8	20	27	30	36½	43
Redland	390	26	31½	37	11½	18½	23
(*408½)	420	10	17½	23½	29	35	39½
R-Royce	200	23½	28	32½	2	6½	8½
(*221)	220	9½	16½	21½	10	14½	17
Tesco	280	9½	15½	19½	12	16	21
(*280)	300	2½	8	11½	27½	29½	34
Vodafone	240	17	24	30½	6½	13½	17
(*249)	260	7	14½	20½	16½	24	27
Williams	300	18½	21	23½	6½	8½	12½
(*310½)	330	3½	7½	10½	26½	27½	30½

FT-SE INDEX (*3698)

	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800
Calls						
Apr	152	109½	74	45	23½	10½
May	169½	132½	100	70½	47½	30
Jun	191½	155	123	92	69½	47
Jul	209½	176	144½	114	91	68
Dec	—	242	—	184	—	135½
Puts						
Apr	13	22	37	58	87	120
May	29	41½	58½	79½	107	140
Jun	48	61	78	97½	123	153
Jul	53½	66½	87	108	134½	162½
Dec	—	114½	—	156	—	207½

Series		Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	550	34	44½	55½	16	26½	29½
(*560)	600	12½	22½	33	46	54½	57
Amstrad	180	19½	25½	28½	7	10	12
(*194½)	200	9	15½	18½	16½	19½	21½
Barclays	700	51½	64½	74	13½	23½	27½
(*729)	750	23½	37½	47½	36	47½	51
Blue Circ	330	19	26	31	14½	20	23
(*340½)	360	7	13	19½	33½	37	40½
Br Gas	220	16	18½	21	8	11	15
(*231½)	240	5½	9	12	19½	22	26½
Dixons	460	28	37½	47½	17	26	28
(*467)	500	11	20	29½	40½	48	50
Forte	343	12½	16½	—	3	6	—
(*350½)	373	1½	3½	—	23	24	—
Tarmac	120	8	11	13	8	10½	12½
(*121½)	130	3	7	9	14½	16½	18½
Hillsdwn	190	10	12½	14½	5½	11½	13
(*185½)	200	2½	5	7	23	25	26
Lonrho	200	20	23½	28½	5½	8½	11
(*211)	220	9	13½	18½	15	18½	20½
Sears	90	10½	12½	13	1½	3½	5
(*98½)	100	4½	7	8½	6½	8½	10
Thorn	1600	95½	122	147½	31	60½	70½
(*1641½)	1700	44½	72½	97½	81	112½	122
Tomkins	240	22	26	29	4	9	11
(*254)	260	10½	15	18½	12	19	20½
Lloyds TSB	292	33½	—	—	4½	—	—
(*317)	322	15	—	—	15½	—	—

Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	800	32½	56½	73½	10½	23½	37
(*818½)	850	9½	32	48	37	40	63
HSBC	1000	15½	47	67	39½	54	73
(*1000)	1050	5	29	47½	90	90½	103½
Reuter	700	22	44½	58½	14	29	34½
(*703½)	750	4	22½	36	48	58	66

Series		Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	360	15½	26½	36½	6½	15½	22½
(*367)	390	4½	15½	22½	25	32	39

Series		Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Fisons	260	5	—	—	0½	—	—
(*265)	280	0	—	—	18	—	—

Series		May			May		
Eastrn Gp	950	33½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*975)	1000	0	—	—	25	—	—

Series		Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	460	31½	35½	42½	14	20	24½
(*475½)	500	12½	16½	23½	39	42½	46½
Scot Pwr	360	19	25	30	10½	18½	20½
(*361½)	390	7	12	17	30	37½	39

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 63765	Jun 96	3690.0	3708.0	3675.5	3696.0	8888
	Sep 96				3712.0	0
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3405	Jun 96				4290.0	0
	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 312919	Jun 96	93.96	93.98	93.95	93.96	13417
	Sep 96	93.76	93.81	93.75	93.78	12128
	Dec 96	93.45	93.49	93.44	93.46	10757
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96					
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1070755	Jun 96	96.74	96.74	96.71	96.72	22826
	Sep 96	96.59	96.63	96.57	96.62	28099
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 118548	Mar 96	106-08	106-15	106-08	106-10	327
	Jun 96	105-15	105-20	105-04	105-11	47743
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	118.62	118.62	118.51	118.59	993
	Sep 96	117.36	117.44	117.36	117.43	102
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 231755	Jun 96	95.95	96.07	95.67	95.90	176009
	Sep 96	95.00	95.15	94.90	95.05	180
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 21123	Jun 96	95.42	95.43	95.39	95.42	1532
	Sep 96	95.32	95.35	95.32	95.34	400
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 53993	Jun 96	98.19	98.21	98.18	98.20	3553
	Sep 96	98.04	98.08	98.04	98.06	3308
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 52636	Jun 96	109.35	109.43	108.72	109.10	41827
	Sep 96	108.50	108.50	108.50	108.55	250

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6¼ Low 4½ Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible] ; 3 mth [illegible] . Sell: 2 mth [illegible] ; 3 mth: [illegible] .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates	[illegible]	[illegible]	6⅛-6	6⅛-6	6¼-6⅛
Interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]	6⅛-6	6¼-6	6¼-6⅛

Overnight: open 5¾, close 5 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps	[illegible]	n/a	6	6	6¼
Sterling CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs	5.35	n/a	5.32	5.38	5.62
Building Society CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $395.30-395.70 **Close:** $395.80-396.30 **High:** $396.40-396.90
Low: $393.30-393.80 **AM:** $395.30 **PM:** $395.80

Krugerrand: $395.50-397.50 (£257.00-259.00)

Platinum: $411.75 (£267.90) **Silver:** $5.60 (£3.635) **Palladium:** $139.00 (£90.50)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for March 21	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5377-2.5454	2.5377-2.5410	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	46.57-46.75	46.65-46.75	12-9pr	34-29pr
Copenhagen	8.7490-8.7860	8.7580-8.7800	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9715-0.9750	0.9715-0.9741	9-6pr	25-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2671-2.2732	2.2683-2.2714	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	234.28-235.26	234.36-234.98	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	190.55-191.13	190.56-190.84	39-48ds	11-13ds
Milan	2386.7-2404.1	2400.1-2404.1	79-94ds	21-23ds
Montreal	2.0860-2.0956	2.0896-2.0926	0.21-0.12pr	0.37-0.26pr
New York	1.5358-1.5402	1.5358-1.5368	0.08-0.06pr	0.25-0.22pr
Oslo	9.8530-9.8810	9.8610-9.8760	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	7.7720-7.7940	7.7800-7.7940	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	10.193-10.242	10.219-10.242	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Tokyo	163.65-164.41	163.68-163.95	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	15.942-15.995	15.950-15.976	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.8348-1.8403	1.8349-1.8378	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel

Premium - pr. Discount - ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2840-1.2848
Austria	10.38-10.39
Belgium (Com)	30.34-30.35
Canada	1.3590-1.3595
Denmark	5.7010-5.7040
France	5.0625-5.0635
Germany	1.4764-1.4769
Hong Kong	7.7308-7.7318
Ireland	1.5791-1.5811
Italy	1554.25-1555.25
Japan	106.45-106.55
Malaysia	2.5446-2.5456
Netherlands	1.6525-1.6531
Norway	6.4148-6.4223
Portugal	152.64-152.74
Singapore	1.4100-1.4110
Spain	124.08-124.18
Sweden	6.6515-6.6615
Switzerland	1.1950-1.1960

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5376-1.5402
Australia dollar	1.9736-1.9757
Bahrain dinar	0.5730-0.5850
Brazil real*	1.5037-1.5079
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7050-0.7150
Finland markka	6.9950-7.1110
Greece drachma	367.00-374.00
Hong Kong dollar	11.8853-11.8923
India rupee	53.47-54.43
Indonesia rupiah	3553.00-3621.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4545-0.4645
Malaysia ringgit	3.9121-3.9154
New Zealand dollar	2.2346-2.2389
Pakistan rupee	52.91 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5325-5.6500
Singapore dollar	2.1677-2.1703
S Africa rand (com)	5.9840-6.0860
U A E dirham	5.5825-5.7065

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	1,900	Land Secs	470
ASDA Gp	10,000	Legal & Gn	2,600
Abbey Ntl	2,500	Lloyds TSB	17,000
Allied Dom	1,200	Marks Spr	5,400
Argos	239	NatWst Bk	2,900
Argyll Gp	4,100	Nat Grid	5,300
AB Foods	434	Nat Power	6,100
BAA	1,500	P & O	1,200
BAT Inds	8,400	Pearson	1,100
BOC	2,400	Pilkington	2,900
BP	6,200	PowerGen	1,200
BSkyB	798	Prudential	3,700
BTR	3,300	REXAM	3,200
BT	23,000	RMC	1,200
Bk of Scot	1,100	RTZ	1,300
Barclays	2,300	Rank Org	2,300
Bass	1,500	Reckitt Col	1,500
Blue Circle	2,300	Redland	1,300
Boots	1,900	Reed Intl	743
BAe	2,400	Rentokil	1,500
BA	3,400	Reuters	1,300
Brit Gas	15,000	Rolls Royce	12,000
Brit Steel	7,900	Royal Ins	1,500
Burmah Cstl	66	Ryl Bk Scot	1,600
Burton	2,000	Sainsbury	1,500
Cable Wire	3,400	Schroders	21
Cadbury	6,000	Scot & New	395
Carlton Cms	2,000	Scot Power	2,700
Cm Union	1,400	Svrn Trent	977
Cookson	5,600	Shell Trans	4,600
Courtaulds	206	Siebe	1,700
Dixons	597	SmKl Bch	5,700
Enterpr Oil	371	Smith Nph	14,000
For & Col IT	1,900	Smiths Inds	721
GKN	601	Sthern Elec	578
GRE	2,200	Std Chartd	972
GUS	6,600	Sun Allnce	2,600
Gen Acc	1,100	TI Gp	985
Gen Elec	5,400	Tate & Lyle	238
Glaxo Well	9,400	Tesco	3,000
Granada	1000	Thames W	3,600
Grand Met	5,500	Thrn EMI	1,700
Greenalls	532	Tomkins	1,500
Guinness	13,000	Unilever	1,400
HSBC	4,900	United Utls	851
Hanson	6,500	Vodafone	9,500
ICI	2,300	Whitbread	1,100
Kingfisher	1,800	Wlms Hld	1,400
LASMO	2,100	Wolseley	661
Ladbroke	3,200	Zeneca	842

WALL STREET

	Mar 21 midday	Mar 20 close
AMP Inc	42¼	42¼
AMR Corp	91¼	91¼
AT & T	62	61½
Abbott Labs	41½	40¾
Advanced Micro	17¼	17¼
Aetna Life	76¼	76½
Ahmanson (HF)	24¼	24¼
Air Prod & Chem	56	56½
AirTouch Comm	32	31¼
Alberto-Culver B	39	38¾
Albertson's	38¼	38¾
Alcan Alumnm	32¼	32¼
Alco Standard	53	52¾
Allied Signal	56¼	56¼
Alum Co of Am	62¾	61½
Amax Gold Inc	6¼	6¼
Amerada Hess	53¼	53¼
Amer Brands	44¼	44¼
Amer El Power	41¼	41¼
Amer Express	48¼	48¼
Amer Genl Corp	35¼	35½
Amer Home Pr	102½	99¾
Amer Intl	96¼	95¼
Amer Stores	30¼	29¼
Amer Standard	30¾	30½
Ameritech	57¾	57¼
Amoco	71¼	71¼
Anheuser-Busch	68¼	68½
Apple Computer	25¼	25¾
Archer Daniels	18¼	18½
Armco	5½	5¼
Armstrng Wrld	62¼	62¼
Asarco	34¼	34¼
Ashland Oil	38¼	38¼
Atl Richfield	114½	115¼
Auto Data Pro	39¼	40¼
Avery Dennison	56¼	56¼
Avon Products	86¼	86¼
Baker Hughes	28¼	28¼
Baltim Gas & El	27¼	27¼
Banc One	35¼	35½
BankAmerica	74¼	75
Bank of NY	52¼	52¼
Bankers Tr NY	71	70¾
Barnett Banks	62½	62¼
Bausch & Lomb	38¼	38¼
Baxter Intl	45	44¼
Becton Dickson	80¼	80¼
Bell Atlantic	64¼	64¼
Bell Industries	21¼	21¼
BellSouth	39¼	39
Black & Decker	36¼	36¼
Block (H&R)	36¼	36
Boeing	87¼	87¼
Boise Cascade	42¼	42¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	86¼	85¼
Browning Ferris	30¼	29¾
Brunswick	23¼	23¼
Burlington Nthn	83¼	84¼
CMS Energy Corp	29¾	30
CNA Financial	113	112¾
CPC Intl	69½	70¼
CSX	45¼	46
Campbell Soup	64	63¾
Can Pacific	20¾	20¾
Carolina Pwr	36¼	36½
Caterpillar	69¼	70¼
Central & SW	27¼	27¾
Champion Intl	45¼	46¼
Chase Manhat	73¼	73½
Chemical Bk	70¾	71¼
Chevron Corp	55¼	55¼
Chrysler	62¾	62¼
Chubb Corp	96	95¼
Cigna Corp	116¼	117
Citicorp	78¼	79¼
Clorox	86¼	86½
Coastal Corp	39¼	39¾
Coca Cola	83¼	84¼
Colgate-Palmolive	79¼	80¼
Columbia Gas	44¼	43¼
ColumbiaHCA	55¼	54¼
Compaq Comp	38¼	38
Comp Ass Intl	71¼	72½
Conagra	43¼	43
Conrail	74¼	75¼
Cons Edison	31½	31¼
Cons Nat Gas	43¼	43¼
Cooper Inds	38¼	38
Corestates	42¼	42¼
Corning Inc	34¼	35
Crown Cork	49¼	49¾
Dana Corp	33¼	33¼
Dayton Hudson	85¾	86¼
Deere	41¼	42
Delta Air Lines	80¼	80¾
Deluxe Corp	31¼	31¼
Digital Equip	54½	56
Dillard Dept St	36¼	36
Disney (Walt)	64¼	65¼
Dominion Res	40	39¾
Donelley (RR)	36¾	37¼
Dover Corp	47	47¼
Dow Chemical	87¼	87¼
Dow Jones	40¼	40¼
Dresser	29¼	29¼
Duke Power	49¼	50¼
Dun & Bradstreet	61¼	61¼
Du Pont	83¼	83¼
Eastman Chem	73¼	73¼
Eastman Kodak	73¼	73¼
Eaton Corp	60¼	61
Edison Intl	17¼	17¼
Emerson Elec	81½	81¼
Engelhard Corp	23¼	23¼
Enron Corp	36¼	36
Entergy	27¼	27¼
Ethyl Corp	10¼	10¼
Exxon	80¼	80¼
FMC Corp	75¼	76¼
FPL Group	44¼	44¼
Federal Express	70¾	71¼
Fed Nat Mtge	32¼	33¼
First Interstate	165½	166¼
First Union Rlty	7½	7¼
Fleet Finl Grp	40¼	40¼
Fluor Corp	69¼	69¾
Ford Motor	33¼	33¼
GTE Corp	44¼	44¼
Gannett	70	70¼
Gap Inc Del	57¼	57¼
Gen Dynamics	60¼	60
Gen Electric	77¼	77¼
Gen Mills	59¼	59¼
Gen Motors	54¼	53¾
Gen Reinsurance	147½	146¼
Gen Signal	36¼	36¼
Genuine Parts	45¼	45¼
Georgia Pac	67¼	68¼
Gillette	53	52¼
Glaxo Welc ADR	25¼	25¼
Goodrich (BF)	78¼	79
Goodyear Tire	52¼	52¼
Grace (W&R)	77¼	77
Gt Atl Pac Tea	29¼	28¼
Great Wstn Fin	23¼	23¼
Halliburton	56¼	57¼
Harcourt General	46¼	46¼
Heinz (HJ)	33¼	34¼
Hercules	62¼	63¼
Hershey Foods	76¾	76¼
Hewlett Packard	96¼	97¼
Hilton Hotels	93	95¼
Home Depot	48¼	49¼
Homestake Mng	18¼	18
Honeywell	56¼	57¼
Household Intl	68¼	68¼
Houston Inds	22¼	22¼
Humana	24¼	24¼
ITT Corp	59	60
Illinois Tool	68¼	68¼
Illinova	28¼	28¼
INCO	34¼	34¼
Ingersoll Rand	41¼	41¼
Inland Steel	24¼	24¼
Intel Corp	56	55¼
IBM	115¼	117
Intl Flav & Fr	49¼	50¼
Intl Paper	38¾	39
James River Va	27¼	27¼
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	94¼	93¼
Kellogg	77¼	77¼
Kerr-McGee	63¼	63¼
Kimberly-Clark	78¼	78¼
Kmart	9¼	10
Knight-Ridder	70¼	71¼
Lilly (Eli)	63¼	61¼
Limited Inc	18¼	19¼
Lincoln Nat	51¼	51¼
Litton	47¼	48¼
Liz Claiborne	34¼	34¼
Lockheed Martin	77¼	78¼
Louisiana Pac	24¼	24¼
MCI Comm	29¼	29¼
Marriott Intl	50	50¼
Marsh & McLnn	94¼	95¼
Masco Corp	30¼	29¼
May Dept St	49¼	50¼
Maytag Corp	21¼	21¼
McDonalds	50¼	50¼
McDonnell D	96¼	95¼
McGraw Hill	89	89¼
Mead Corp	52¼	52¼
Medtronic	57¼	57¼
Mellon Bk	55	55¼
Melville Corp	33¼	33¼
Merck Inc	64¼	63
Merrill Lynch	58¼	58
Microsoft	102¼	104¼
Minnesota Mine	64¼	65
Mobil Corp	113¼	113¼
Monsanto	156¼	156¼
Morgan (JP)	83¼	84¼
Motorola Inc	54¼	54¼
Natl Semi	14¼	15
Natl Service Ind	34	33¼
Navistar Intl	11¼	10¼
NY Times A	29¼	29¼
Newmont Mng	53¼	53¼
Niag Mohawk	6¼	6¼
Nike B	79¼	79¼
NL Industries	14	14
Noram Energy	9¼	9¼
Nordstrom	49¼	48¼
Norfolk Sthrn	85	85¼
Nthn State Pwr	49¼	49¼
Norwest Corp	34¼	35¼
Nynex Corp	52¼	51
Occidental Pet	25¼	25¼
Ohio Edison	22¼	22¼
Oracle	50	49¼
Oryx Energy Co	12¼	12¼
Owens Corning	41¼	42
PHH Corp	52¼	52¼
PPG Industries	47¼	48¼
PNC Bank	29¼	29¼
PP&L Res	24	24
Paccar Inc	50¼	50¼
Pacificorp	20¼	20¼
Pac Enterprises	26¼	26¼
Pac Gas & Elec	25	25¼
Pac Telesis	27¼	26¼
Pall Corp	27¼	27¼
Panhandle East	30	29¼
Parker Hannifin	39	39¼
Peco Energy	27¼	27¼
Penney (JC)	50¼	50¼
Pennzoil	39	39¼
Pepsico	63¼	63¼
Pfizer	66	63¼
Pharm & Upjhn	41¼	41¼
Phelps Dodge	67¼	68¼
Philip Morris	88¼	89¼
Phillips Pet	39¼	39
Pitney Bowes	48¼	48¼
Polaroid	41¼	41¼
PriceCostco	19¼	18¼
Procter & Gmbl	86¼	87
Providian	43¼	43¼
Pub Serv E & G	26¼	26¼
Quaker Oats	34¼	34¼
Ralston Purina	67¼	67¼
Raychem Corp	66¼	66¼
Raytheon	53¼	52¼
Reebok Intl	28¼	28¼
Reynolds Metals	54¼	54¼
Rockwell Intl	60	60
Rohm & Haas	68¼	68¼
Royal Dutch	139¼	140¼
Rubbermaid	29¼	29¼
SBC Comms	54¼	53¼
Safeco Corp	34¼	34¼
St Paul's Cos	55¼	55¼
Salomon Inc	38	37¼
Sara Lee Corp	33¼	33
Schering Plough	60¼	59¼
Schlumberger	77¼	77¼
Seagram	32¼	32¼
Sears Roebuck	51	51¼
Shell Trans	79¼	79¼
Sherwin Wllms	43¼	43¼
Skyline Corp	23¼	23¼
Snap-On-Tools	46¼	46¼
Southern Co	23¼	23¼
Sprint Corp	36¼	36¼
Stanley Works	55¼	55¼
Sun Company	28¼	29
Sun Microsys	44¼	43¼
Suntrust	71¼	71¼
Supervalu	31¼	32
Sysco Corp	33¼	32¼
TRW Inc	89¼	89¼
TCC Inds	2¼	2¼
Tandem Comp	9	9¼
Tandy Corp	45¼	46¼
Teledyne	29¼	29¼
Temple Inland	47	47¼
Tenneco	56¼	56
Texaco	84¼	84¼
Texas Inst	49¼	51¼
Texas Utilities	41¼	41
Textron	82¼	82
Time Warner	42¼	42¼
Times-Mirror A	38¼	38¼
Timken	40¼	40¼
Torchmark	45¼	45¼
Toys R Us	27¼	27¼
Transamerica	77¼	77¼
Travelers	65¼	63¼
Tribune	67¼	66¼
Tyco Labs	39¼	39¼
UST Inc	32¼	31¼
UAL	213¼	211
US Inds	20¼	20¼
USX Marathon	19¼	19¼
Unicom	28¼	28¼
Unilever NV	137¼	137¼
Union Camp	49¼	51
Union Carbide	48¼	48¼
Union Pacific	69¼	71¼
Unisys Corp	6	6
USAIR Group	19¼	19
USF&G Corp	15¼	15¼
US Life	29¼	29¼
United Tech	115¼	116¼
Unocal Corp	32¼	32¼
VF Corp	55¼	55¼
WMX Tech	30¼	30¼
Wal-Mart Stores	23¼	23¼
Warner-Lambert	105	103¼
Wells Fargo	248¼	249¼
Westinghouse El	19	19¼
Weyerhaeuser	47¼	47¼
Whirlpool	58¼	58
Whitman	24	24
Winn Dixie	35¼	34¼
Woolworth	15¼	15¼
Wrigley (Wml Jr	61¼	60¼
Xerox	130¼	130¼
Yellow Corp	11¼	11¼

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Banking on luxury

GORDON Campbell Gray moved into Number One Aldwych this week, where he intends to turn the £12.5 million building, part of which was formerly a grand banking hall for Lloyds, into one of London's most prestigious hotels, and already he's planning his round-the-world tour to vet the competition.

Over three weeks, Mr Campbell Gray will stay in 20 of the world's finest hotels, including The Peninsula in Hong Kong and the Montalembert in Paris, where he'll scrutinise every detail from the softness of the hotel pillows to their shoe shine service. The Scottish managing director, who set up The Draycott in Cadogan Gardens, has even agreed to pack a camcorder, and include his findings in a fly-on-the-wall television documentary due out in September 1997, to coincide with the opening of the hotel.

Hard lines

LORD HOOSON, non-executive chairman of the Severn River Crossing, who retires as non-executive chairman of Laura Ashley on May 21, is planning to write a book on his varied career.

Lord Hooson, who first met Sir Bernard and Laura Ashley in 1963, when they only had two employees, hopes to put into print a collection of his "reflections" from his experiences as a businessman, barrister, politician and farmer. "I used to share a chambers with John Mortimer in Dr Johnson's building, so I've observed how hard he had to work," he says.

"Wessex Water, Severn Trent . . . it never rains but it pours"

THE morning market note that stockbrokers Panmure Gordon faxes to clients around the world was unusually to the point yesterday. Beside a pretty picture of a cow, it read: "The British people have been exposed to a new and unpleasant sickness: cash cow disease. Companies have recognised that the economy is mature and slow growing, so they are extracting cash, cutting investment to the minimum needed for maintenance and squeezing costs."

Back put out

WILL CARLING poured out his heart to doctors and nurses this week at the launch party of Pulse, the new healthcare appointments company. Resting his injured leg, the retiring England rugby captain complained of how he's bullied by his forwards. They're always the ones to choose the videos at training camp, he said, then quoted Arnold Schwarzenegger from the film *Predator*: "I haven't got time to bleed."

THE UK's oldest and second-largest investment trust, Foreign & Colonial, has always found a novel way of comparing the value of £1,000 invested over various time periods. It introduced a new Mars Bar Index at its annual results presentation yesterday. In 1945, a Mars Bar cost the equivalent of 1.4p. Today it costs 26p. Meanwhile, £1,000 invested in F&C would now be worth just over £1m.

The role of head offices comes under scrutiny

What value do bosses add to big companies, asks **Carl Mortished**

Sir Michael Perry hopes that a new top management structure will deliver better leadership

Staff at Shell Centre in London recently celebrated the launch of the newly established Oil Products business organisation, part of the management upheaval that has cut 28 per cent of the staff at Shell's dual corporate centre in London and The Hague. Donning T-shirts and baseball caps displaying the corporate identity and strategic goals, Shell managers welcomed in the oil company's new management structure and showed goodwill towards colleagues by giving each other friendly hugs.

Meanwhile, across the Thames, in another corporate headquarters, Unilever's top managers are trying on new hats to go with their new job descriptions. The board has reinvented itself, abolishing committees and creating new ones in the hope that new management structures will give the hundreds of Unilever companies around the world better strategic direction.

Unilever and Shell are both Anglo-Dutch companies, but on the surface they have little else in common; one makes branded soaps, margarines, ice-creams and hundreds of other so-called fast-moving consumer goods, while the other company deals simply in oil, finding it, refining it and selling it along with oil's by-products to the world at large.

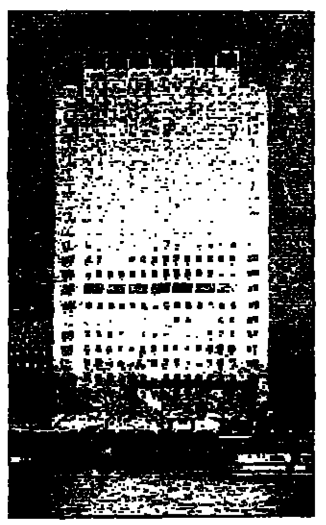
A fly on the wall who listened to a board meeting on the top floor of Shell Centre might hear a similar tale if it buzzed across the river to eavesdrop on a similar meeting at Unilever House. Both companies are struggling to raise their financial performance, but fierce competition in the mature markets of Europe and North America is shredding retail margins in petrol and soap powder alike. Meanwhile, emerging markets in Asia and Latin America beckon with the promise of fast growth from growing populations with money in their pockets.

Both companies show symptoms of a malaise that infects the top management of multinationals everywhere. Once-passive institutional shareholders are becoming more critical of managements and the stock market fashion is to break up large groups in the search for hidden value.

The initial response in boardrooms to shareholder pressure is to cut operating costs. But in the corporate centres of huge multinationals such as Shell and Unilever there is a more fundamental anxiety that the message from High Command is not getting through to the generals on the ground. In some cases, local operating companies receive separate conflicting messages from different arms of the organisation or even no message at all.

Last week, Unilever announced the creation of a top management structure aimed at delivering a clearer strategy and better leadership to the local operating companies. A seven-strong executive committee of the board will be responsible for strategy, while operational responsibility will be delegated to 14 business organisations based on regions. Sir Michael Perry, Unilever's chairman, explained that under the previous structure, which mixed global responsibility for product strategy with bottom-line responsibility for a region, directors found themselves with conflicts of interest. "Since each of the members of the board were dealing with factional interests of their own, it was very difficult to get complete consensus for a common strategy," he said.

For local company bosses, that could be frustrating. Sir Michael remembers his own experience running Unilever in Thailand and receiving dozens of visits from regional directors, each with their own ideas and pet projects. "I would phone my director in London and ask him which of these twits will I listen to," he joked.



Shell's HQ has seen a shake-up

Shell's head office shake-up moves the strategic focus in the opposite direction: less emphasis on regions and more on a global strategy for the products. Shell has scrapped an entire management division, the regional co-ordinators who acted as the eyes and ears of the shareholders at local level. The new structure is based on four business groups: exploration, oil products, chemicals, and gas and coal, but Shell's new broom is aimed at addressing similar problems: streamlining communication and removing the conflicts that evolved from a complex management matrix developed over 30 years.

According to Peter Hadfield, Shell's human resources director, the structure which was designed to provide checks and balances to decision-making was almost too effective with too many decisions being passed up the corporate ladder. "We have tried to cut out bureaucracy. There are some things that must be decided locally, selling gasoline, for example. There are some things, such as refining, which are regional, and there are some thing you decide globally: the Shell brand, for example." As a result, Shell has cut almost a third of its head office staff, while Unilever has yet to decide what the job consequences will be. For companies of their size, such cost-cutting is almost irrelevant to the bottom line. What is important is the recognition that after decades of complacency, change has become necessary. In effect, someone has lifted the lid off Shell Centre and Unilever House, thrust in a wooden spoon and stirred vigorously.

Robin Buchanan, of Bain & Company, the management consultants, believes that companies should tackle the unpleasant question of what value, if any, is created by the corporate centre staff. "People are increasingly recognising that corporate centres can destroy value as well as create it. The question a company needs to ask is: are we at the corporate centre adding value to this business — yes or no? You can have very bureaucratic centres seeking to create synergies but the cost of going after them are greater than the benefits. In other cases, you can have a lot of local businesses with a local mindset when the company needs to fight globally."

Taken to its logical conclusion, the analysis may lead a corporate centre to chuck in the towel if it concluded that it was more of a cost than a resource. As Mr Buchanan puts it: "The answer to the question could be that our businesses would be better off belonging to someone else or, even if we are adding value, could someone else add even more value?"

Mr Hadfield acknowledges the point: "Their existence is justified because the businesses need them and because they are prepared to pay for them." In the event, neither Shell nor Unilever have put their assets up for sale, but at least one large international company, Hanson, came to a different conclusion and is in the process of splitting up.

To the outsider, the new committee structures at Unilever and Shell may look like musical chairs, but examined more closely, they are an attempt to address an intractable problem for multinationals: how to remain close to different customers in far flung locations while at the same time pushing their global brands. At the same time, their shareholders are tapping them on the shoulders demanding higher profits and dividends. Sir Michael put the new emphasis succinctly: "For example, the president of a mature business in America might feel that his way forward is to expand into areas that are less mature. But we will say — thank you, but your task is to generate value out of your existing business because we think it is probably better to invest this $100 million of shareholders funds in China. That is a decision he cannot participate in."

The strategic focus on the Far East is slowly changing the ethnic make-up of the multinationals. Unilever is on its third local chairman in Indonesia, and Hindustan Lever, the Indian subsidiary, has more of its own staff working outside the country than foreign Unilever expatriates working within India. However, in both Shell and Unilever, at the heart of the corporate centre the faces are predominantly white; either English or Dutch.

That may change slowly but the search for growing markets raises a question as to how long the strategic decision-making of companies like Shell and Unilever will remain in slow-growth Europe. There is political resistance to creating regional corporate centres: an operating company in Thailand may find it easier to take instruction from London than Singapore. Technology transfer also remains a large part of the function of corporate centres, with local companies buying know-how from London, Rotterdam or The Hague.

However, companies like Shell and Unilever are not at the frontiers of high technology. Their skill is in delivering the same product of the same quality again and again around the world. The shareholders remain predominantly European or American. But if investors stay with them, it is because of the prospect of getting a stake in the high-growth emerging markets, not for the meagre profits earned from selling petrol in Surrey or detergent in Ohio.

City looks to new GEC chief for change

Ross Tieman on the legacy that awaits Lord Weinstock's successor

Three decades after its creation, the General Electric Company, Britain's biggest manufacturer, is at a crossroads.

The breakdown of national markets has opened the door to global consolidation among rivals in the manufacture of power stations, railway equipment, and even washing machines. Low-margin competition, from giant conglomerates in newly industrialised countries, such as Korea, is stepping up the pressure for restructuring.

A mere terrier in this world of slavering rottweilers, in spite of its £10 billion of annual sales, GEC realises that it must move up the technology scale, and build production volumes to offset the cost.

Lord Prior, the chairman, acknowledged the challenge in his annual report last year. "The two elements critical to our success are greater access to the world's markets for our products and increased technological strength," he wrote.

The creator of GEC, Lord Weinstock, will surrender executive responsibility this autumn, at the age of 71, after 33 years at the helm. His successor as managing director will be George Simpson, the chief executive of Lucas Industries, a car parts maker one-third GEC's size. His task is to reshape GEC for a new century.

> ❛ George Simpson is to reshape GEC for a new century ❜

The renewal of GEC is already part-complete. In a visionary series of deals, beautifully accomplished, Weinstock joint-ventured several of GEC's businesses with strong partners at the end of the 1980s. The power systems and railway equipment operation was put into a 50/50 joint venture with Alcatel of France to create GEC-Alsthom, which is now a £7 billion a year business.

In telephone equipment, GEC took on board Siemens of Germany as junior partner (and technology provider) in a 60/40 joint venture, GPT. GEC's Hotpoint fridges, Creda cookers and Cannon gas fires were put into a 50/50 venture with those of its American namesake, General Electric. Furthermore, Weinstock engineered a half-share in Europe's biggest satellite builder by merging GEC's space interests with those of Matra of France and mopping up the British Aerospace space business to create Matra-Marconi Space.

All of these deals helped GEC to achieve critical mass in fast-consolidating markets, at minimal cost. Weinstock has long preferred to buy technology and, indeed, capacity, through acquisitions, rather than risk the company's money. His management style has been overwhelmingly conservative and risk-averse, focusing on tight financial controls.

That is how GEC has built up a £2.94 billion cash pile, and why pre-tax profits have grown by only £197 million, to £907 million, in the past decade. For Weinstock, read "yield stock". According to insiders, Mr Simpson will be welcomed with open arms.

In a review of Mr Simpson's options at GEC Andrew Bryant, of County NatWest, argues that the company is in for a radical overhaul. Yes, Mr Simpson will open up the management culture and invest in technology and capacity. The first target will be strategic partnerships. Expect renewed efforts to merge GEC-Marconi, the £5 billion a year defence business, with the soon-to-be-privatised Thomson CSF of France, in a three-way link involving Matra, GEC's existing partner in the space industry.

Simpson could also do a deal with Dick Evans, the British Aerospace chief executive, for whom he used to work as deputy, to bring in BAe's missile interests.

A flotation of GEC-Alsthom is a possibility, together with new partnerships for that business, and for GPT.

Disposals are probable. The favourites for disposal are businesses that lack critical mass and are seen as peripheral, such as GDA, in white goods, Videojet, in printing, and Express, the lifts company, together with some of the colonial legacy operations.

The City expects change. Changing markets demand it. George Simpson must deliver it.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Riches were always the attraction in such a risky business

From Mr John Perry

Sir, Names at Lloyd's are faced with the decision to accept or refuse the Equitas scheme. The two letters you published from Mr R. F. May and Mr J. D. Burrows reflect some of the attitudes surrounding Lloyd's.

As a young qualified solicitor with a firm representing Lloyd's, it was one of my tasks to sit in on the interviews with prospective names at Lloyd's. In 1960 it was the standard practice to advise them that at law they would become liable to their last penny. That having been said, it was added that should a syndicate run into difficulties, it was to be expected that Lloyd's would launch a lifeboat service to come to the rescue.

I well remember the case of one individual who refused to accept financial help because he said that he had entered into the insurance market in the knowledge that he would be personally liable to his last penny. Perhaps a monument should be erected to his honourable example.

I noted the jibe against lawyers "who may not be bent but are certainly bent on getting richer". "Getting richer" was the hope which enticed many names into the insurance market. It raised the prospect of a second income without any further work involved. At one time, when there was a distinction between earned and unearned income, the money was described as earned income: a misnomer. It would appear that the large exposure to the US asbestos risks has been responsible for the mind-boggling losses.

I fear Mr Burrows is being too narrow in his focus on the short passage from the decision in the Keene Corporation case. Lloyd's, it was said, would take on any risk. Of course, had Keene been aware of the existence of the harmful propensities of asbestos without disclosing the same then the policies could have been rendered void on the grounds of non-disclosure of material facts.

Insurance is a risky business. My efforts for Lloyd's were rewarded by an invitation to dine at the Captain's table. When the senior partner heard of my acceptance, I was sacked. I never did enjoy that meal. Who knows, had I become a wealthy City lawyer, I too may have become a name at Lloyd's.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PERRY,
John Perry & Co (Solicitors),
25 The Green,
Richmond, Surrey.

This cannot be justice

From Mr Harry Swaddle

Sir, A ballot will be taken in the next few months to accept or reject the Lloyd's 1996 settlement. Only 12,000 of the 34,000 names remain, after resignation for personal reasons by some, plus the "can't pay" and "won't pay". As we will all have a vote, those who have left will no doubt vote to accept and the minority will be left to foot the bill.

In some cases the "won't pay" names will be voting to make others pay their losses. This cannot be justice.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY SWADDLE,
5 Beverley Gardens,
Cullercoats,
Tyne and Wear.

Disasters not Lloyd's fault

From G. B. Potts

Sir, So many of the letters you publish, mostly from embittered names, seem to ignore the fact that, quite apart from asbestosis and pollution, there were, in the three years 1988, 1989 and 1990, no less than 11 major disasters. The claims arising from these were bound to cause underwriting losses which were not the fault of Lloyd's, nor were they due to malpractice or incompetence.

The fact that these inevitable losses fell heavily on certain syndicates may well have been due to bad judgement and, in some cases, incompetence, but for names to act now as though all the blame lies with Lloyd's is to ignore the facts.

I agree that the offer will have to be improved to gain acceptance but it is, in my view, the only realistic solution to the problem.

Yours faithfully,
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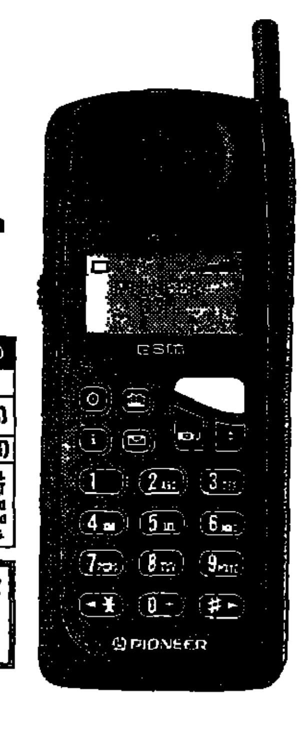

Invesco planning to buy

INVESCO, the international fund management group, is to use its £70 million cash pile to make acquisitions to boost funds under management and expand its businesses in northern Europe, the US and the Asian markets (Robert Miller writes).

Norman Riddell, chief executive of Invesco, which yesterday unveiled a 28 per cent increase in annual profits to top £50 million up to December 31, said that the group started off the New Year in acquisitive style by purchasing Aetna Investment Management in Hong Kong for £6 million spread over three years. Global funds under management rose to £53.8 billion against £41.7 billion last time.

Mr Riddell said: "We are always willing to consider a purchase, but it must be the right business at the right price." Earnings per share rose by 17 per cent to 13.7p, while the final dividend of 4p contributed to a total payout for the year of 5.75p, compared with 4.75p in 1994.

National Express ready to venture overseas as profits speed to £41m

By Marianne Curphey

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the transport company which now operates coaches, buses and airports, says it is considering "dozens of opportunities" to invest in, or acquire, new companies in the UK. Europe and Far East. Adam Mills, deputy chief executive, said National Express was also interested in setting up joint ventures abroad.

He expects to hear "within three weeks" whether NE has been successful in its bid to operate privatised rail services on either the InterCity East Coast Mainline, Midland Mainline, Network South Central or Gatwick Express routes.

He said: "We are hopeful that we will get something." Mr Mills was less optimistic about NE's bid for Birmingham Airport. He said: "We are probably unlikely to be allowed to take a stake, but are still interested in UK airports." National Express already owns both East Midlands and Bournemouth airports.

Adam Mills, Phil White, West Midlands Travel chief executive, Ray McEnhill, and Colin Child, NE finance director

Yesterday NE reported a near-threefold increase in pretax profits in 1995 to £41.5 million from £15.2 million. Operating profit rose to £44 million from £16.3 million, with a £24.7 million contribution from West Midlands Travel (WMT), acquired in April 1995.

Cost-cutting measures to reduce debt at WMT had resulted in the loss of 120 jobs and more were likely, Mr Mills said. Deregulation of buses meant the market was now "very tough", and NE faced competitive pressures in all its operating areas.

The company has spent several thousand pounds fitting seat belts to all new coaches and by 1997 all 550 will have belts.

National Express has a 17 per cent stake in London & Continental, the consortium which won the contract to build and operate the £3 billion Channel Tunnel rail link.

Meanwhile, operating profit on the coach division last year was flat, at £9.69 million (£9.86 million), although the 1994 figures had been boosted by increased passengers during the rail strike.

Passenger numbers at East Midlands Airport rose 17 per cent to 1.9 million (1.6 million).

Earnings per share were up 11 per cent to 27.9p (25.2p). Gearing at the year end was 36 per cent (6 per cent), and the increase relects the debt within West Midlands Travel when it was acquired.

NE is now looking for a successor to outgoing chief executive Ray McEnhill, who wants to step down because of ill health. Mr Mills said the company was "still searching and expects to make an announcement next month".

The total dividend has been increased by 15 per cent to 10p net, compared with 8.7p last year. The shares rose 4p to 481p.

Dividend at F&C is raised again

By Robert Miller

FOREIGN & Colonial, Britain's oldest investment trust, has rewarded its shareholders with a 25th consecutive annual dividend increase. F&C, which has assets of £1.8 billion and has been managed by Michael Hart since 1969, lifted the final payout by a higher than forecast 10 per cent to 2.1p.

F&C's performance was further boosted by the trust's managers borrowing £134 million to gain additional exposure to the yen and the US and UK bond markets. The F&C investment view was that the yen would gain in strength and for UK and US bond prices to rise. Initially, the bet back-fired, but finally came good in 1995, enabling Mr Hart to pay back the loan and bank a profit further enhanced by currency gains and interest rate differentials.

F&C has increased the number of predominantly private shareholders to 108,000 from 95,000 previously and has attracted 2,400 investors to its low-cost personal pension plan. Among the top ten investments in its portfolio is a £52 million stake in Robert Fleming, the private merchant bank.

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Geest pegs payout despite red ink

By Sarah Bagnall

SHARPLY lower banana prices and a string of one-off costs pushed Geest, the UK food company, into the red in the year to December 30.

The group, which sold its banana business at the start of the year for £147.1 million, yesterday revealed a slump in pre-tax profits of £12.8 million to a loss of £600,000. Sales fell from £675.7 million to £659.8 million.

Michael Dowdall, chairman, said: "The sale of the banana business marks the beginning of a new stage in the development of Geest.

"Today, Geest is clearly focused on fresh convenience foods — an area of rapid growth and increasing consumer penetration." The sale provides Geest with the financial muscle to expand in this fast-growing market. The decline in fortunes reflects £10.6 million of net exceptional costs and a decline in underlying profits from £12.3 million to £10 million.

The banana business, which will not feature in future results, saw operating profits plunge 23 per cent to £8.8 million because of the imposition of an export tax by Colombia and lower banana prices.

In contrast, the group's food preparation businesses lifted operating profits 33 per cent to £10 million, while the fresh convenience foods businesses made an operating profit of £9.4 million.

The final dividend, due July 1, of 4.4p maintains the total for the year at 8.1p. The shares rose 4p to 224p.

Tenneco set for spin-offs

TENNECO, the US conglomerate, is taking its break-up plan one stage further with two large spin-offs this year (Richard Thomson writes). The first is its Newport News Shipbuilding operation, which will be offered to shareholders late in 1996. It also expects to put the finishing touches to a plan to separate its large Tenneco energy business from its industrial operations by the middle of this year.

The Newport News operation in Vermont supplied $1.7 billion last year, or 15 per cent of Tenneco's revenues. The energy business, which includes a natural gas pipeline, contributed $1.9 billion, or about 20 per cent of revenues. The pipeline supplies about one sixth of US natural gas.

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Hepworth pays the same after flat profits

By Martin Barrow

HEPWORTH, the building products, heating and minerals group, is maintaining its 1995 dividend after returning annual pre-tax profits little changed at £74.5 million, against £75.5 million previously.

The company warned shareholders that profits for the first half of the current year will be affected by difficult trading conditions in construction markets across Europe, compounded by adverse weather.

Industrial, heating and home products activities continued to perform at reasonable levels in highly competitive markets, Hepworth said. John Carter, chief executive, said that it was hoped that lower interest rates in western Europe would provide the backdrop for a progressive rise in activity later in the year.

After a promising start, 1995 had proved to be a difficult year in its key construction, heating and home products markets in Britain and on the Continent, the company said. However, an improved result from its refractory and minerals activities led to an overall performance in line with 1994.

Operating profits slipped to £73.6 million, from £76.7 million, a decline of 4 per cent, in spite of a 10 per cent rise in turnover, to £765.9 million, from £695.9 million.

Profits in the building products division fell to £16.1 million, from £19.8 million, while the contribution from home products declined to £9 million, from £12.8 million. Saunier Duval, the boilers subsidiary, held profits almost unchanged at £29 million, against £29.4 million. Buoyant markets lifted the refractories division, whose profits rose to £7.6 million, from £4.3 million, and the minerals and chemicals division, which earned £11.9 million, up from £10.4 million.

There was a net cash outflow of £27.4 million, reflecting increased capital expenditure and acquisitions, which lifted gearing to 22.3 per cent, from 8.4 per cent. Interest cover remained high, at 25 times.

Hepworth is to seek shareholder approval to acquire up to 10 per cent of its ordinary shares, although the company emphasised that it had no intention of buying the shares at the current time. The shares fell 3p, to 290p, yesterday.

The final dividend is unchanged, at 9.35p a share, due on July 12, which maintains the total at 14.85p. Earnings per share were 20.8p, down from 21.6p.

James Frost predicted more volume in fewer hands, leading to higher prices at the pumps. He said Frost Group would aim to maximise its margins

Frost edges ahead in tough market

PROFITS at Frost Group, the independent petrol station chain operator, were little changed in 1995, reflecting the difficult trading conditions in a fiercely competitive market (Martin Barrow writes).

Pre-tax profits rose to £11.1 million in 1995 from £10.9 million in 1994, in spite of a sharp rise in turnover to £451.5 million from £229.4 million. There was a five-month contribution from Burmah Castrol's petrol and wholesale business acquired in July for £83 million. Frost also operates the SAVE chain.

There is a final dividend of 3.8p a share, which lifts the total to 7p from 5.6p. Headline earnings fell to 10.2p a share from 11p, although they rose to 13.9p after adjustment for last year's rights issue to fund the Burmah purchase.

James Frost, chairman, said the results represented "a highly satisfactory outcome for a difficult year in the UK petroleum market".

Mr Frost gave warning that 1996 was going to be tough. Restructuring within the industry would leave BP, Esso and Shell with up to 55 per cent of the retail market, while the private dealer market would fall in volume terms. He said: "The end result will be more volume concentrated in fewer hands and that means higher pump prices."

The company said it sought to maximise its total gross margin, even if this meant maintaining margin per litre and sacrificing volume.

Laing down but sees pick-up

By Alasdair Murray

JOHN LAING, the construction company, yesterday reported a 15 per cent fall in full-year profits to £20.8 million but was confident the UK construction market was beginning to pick up.

Martin Laing, the chairman, said: "The UK housing market has begun to recover, particularly in the South East, and in recent weeks we have seen a growth in sales. However, it is too early to assess the strength of the recovery."

Mr Laing believes a full recovery and an improvement in the risk/reward ratio of the construction industry in the medium term would enable the group to strengthen its performance.

Turnover increased 3 per cent to £1.2 billion. The construction division made a £2.3 million loss (£2 million profit), after taking an £11.1 million restructuring charge. But the housing division showed a 25 per cent profit improvement at £11.9 million. UK housing sales fell from 2,114 to 1,675 with a slight improvement in the US at 721 units. Total dividend was 9p unchanged, with a final 6p, payable on July 5.

Rights issue at Abbott Mead Vickers

By Alasdair Murray

A 1-FOR-8 rights issues was launched yesterday at Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising group, to cover the cost of recent acquisitions.

The announcment was made after the company unveiled a 27 per cent rise in full-year profits to £10.4 million. David Abbott, chairman, was also bullish about prospects for this year, saying the company had made a strong start. Abbott Mead has won £50 million new business to date this year, including ICI Dulux and Prudential.

The company also recently bought Fishburn Hedges Boys Williams, the PR company.

Turnover increased by 18 per cent to £287 million. The total dividend was increased by 22 per cent to 9p, with a final dividend of 6.25p payable on June 7.

Last year, Abbott Mead gained £115 million in new business, with new clients including Timberland, Pizza Hut and Texas, the DIY chain. The company also enjoyed a large rise in cross-referrals between its marketing and advertising businesss, ending the year with 36 clients using two or more group companies. Group margins increased from 15.6 per cent to 16 per cent, with margins in the advertising division increasing from 14.1 to 14.6 per cent.

The company said that BBDO Worldwide, one of its main shareholders, would not be subscribing to the rights issue but had recently increased its holding in Abbott Mead to 29.6 per cent. BBDO said it would maintain a long-term commitment to its holding in Abbott Mead.

Maunders encouraged by housing market

John Maunders Group, the housebuilder operating in northwest and southern England, said that although the housing market remains fragile, sales this year are encouraging, with reservations on target and demand aided by cuts in interest rates and tax.

In the half to December 31, group pre-tax profits fell to £2.5 million, from £3.6 million. The interim dividend remains 2.45p, due on April 26.

Flare buys

Flare Group, the ceramics company, formerly Hewitt Group, is paying £6 million for Bricesco, a kiln maker, and £2.6 million for CMS Colours, supplier of transfers for pottery. Flare made a 1995 pre-tax profit of £1.3 million (1994 loss of £6.3 million). Earnings were 12.7p a share (117.9p loss). There is again no dividend.

Blow to Quality

Pre-tax profits of Quality Software Products fell to £502,697 last year, from £2.5 million, in spite of a 30 per cent rise in turnover, to £21.4 million. A 1.5p final dividend, due on July 17, makes 3p, down from 4.5p.

Gleeson ahead

M J Gleeson Group, the housebuilding and property company, is lifting its interim dividend to 3.75p, from 3.55p, after a rise in pre-tax profits to £3.48 million (£3.24 million) in the half year to December 31.

Try slips

Try Group, the contractor and housebuilder, made a 1995 pre-tax loss of £4.4 million (1994 profits of £620,000). There is no dividend (1p).

THYSSEN

THYSSEN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

Publication pursuant to Arts. 25 (2) and 41 (3)
of the German Securities Trade Act ("WpHG")

In accordance with Art. 21 (1) WpHG, Thyssen Beteiligungsverwaltung GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany, informed us that, after selling part of its stake in our company's voting capital, its shareholding has decreased to 10.0001 percent, which is below the threshold of 25 percent.

Pursuant to Arts. 21 (1) and 22 (1) no. 2 WpHG, Thyssen Vermögensverwaltung GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany, notified us that it no longer holds the majority of the voting rights in Thyssen Beteiligungsverwaltung GmbH, Düsseldorf, Germany.

Under the terms of Art. 41 (2) WpHG, the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Cologne, Germany, informed us that it has held 8.58 percent of our company's voting stock as of January 1, 1995.

Duisburg, Germany, March 22, 1996 — The Executive Board

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UK Growth Acc	430.80	458.30	+ 1.20	2.83
UK Growth Inc	286.90	305.30	+ 0.80	2.83
Higher Inc Acc	781.10	831.00	+ 4.00	4.22
Higher Inc Inc	434.60	462.40	+ 2.20	4.22
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	204.50	216.00†	+ 1.10	5.69
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	91.51	96.65†	+ 0.11	5.69
Nth America	363.70	387.90	- 0.70	
Europe	344.90	367.00†	+ 0.90	0.55
Brit Excell	85.52	90.98	+ 0.26	3.02
Brit Fndmtls Acc	113.60	120.90†	+ 0.50	4.83
Brit Fndmtls Inc	77.86	82.83†	+ 0.34	4.83
Global Opps	100.10	106.50	+ 0.80	0.28
Balanced Acc	61.97	65.93	+ 0.30	2.72
Balanced Inc	59.30	63.09	+ 0.29	2.72
Japan Acc	46.83	49.82	+ 0.32	
Pac Basin Acc	421.00	447.90	+ 6.20	0.02

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0345 717 373

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilts & Fixed Int	127.50	135.30†	+ 0.70	7.39
High Inc Equity	179.80	192.30	+ 1.00	4.38
Worldwide Bond	386.10	383.40†		4.81
American Growth	358.50	383.30	- 1.90	0.73
Asian Pacific	343.00	366.80	+ 2.00	0.22
Assets & Earnings	298.20	317.20	+ 1.40	2.78
Euro Capital Acc	174.30	186.40	- 0.10	0.55
Extra Inc	44.17	46.99†	+ 0.08	8.58
General	271.20	288.50†	+ 1.00	2.89
Global Opps	64.81	68.95	+ 0.13	0.44
Japan	124.80	133.30	+ 1.00	.
Managed Inc	47.67	50.71†	+ 0.19	4.58
Mastertrust	163.00	174.30	+ 0.70	1.36
US Emerging Cos	196.50	208.00	- 1.50	
Ethical	79.02	84.06	+ 0.12	2.49
International	135.60	144.30	+ 0.80	0.78
Dividend & Growth	66.88	71.15	+ 0.42	4.31
Global Gwth & Sec	72.09	77.03	+ 0.02	2.54
Latin America	57.65	61.33	- 0.41	
Capital Reserve	142.60	142.60		4.91

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Cazenove Portfolio	97.77	104.22	+ 0.19	2.47
American Portfolio	118.20	125.40	+ 0.24	0.91
European Portfolio	124.84	132.90	+ 0.36	0.43
High Income	50.31	50.42	- 0.05	7.96
Japanese Portfolio	68.98	73.29†	+ 0.55	..
Pacific Portfolio	159.05	171.03	+ 0.65	1.41
UK Inc & Growth	93.57	100.02	+ 0.20	2.85
Utility & Bond	57.44	58.08	- 0.05	6.58

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0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	733.01	744.09	...	4.35
Fxd In Sec	151.20	151.80		8.35

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0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	722.89	733.81	.	4.42
Investment Acc	232.23	232.72	..	
Fixed Int Inc	125.03	125.53	...	8.16
Fixed Int Acc	212.80	213.46	..	

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Beck Bio-Tech	47.77	51.45	- 1.47	
Acorn Ethical Tst	172.52	181.16	...	0.60
City Fin Assets	76.71	80.55	...	2.02
City Fin America	115.49	121.27†		
City Fin Intl	93.43	98.11	...	0.62
City Fin Japan	148.00	155.41	.	..
Friars Hse Cap	315.18	335.30	...	2.23
Friars Hse Inc	200.32	213.11	.	4.17
Buckley Wrld Gth	148.93	157.86†	.	
Fairmont Cap Gth	151.79	159.78	+ 2.63	.
Fairmount Intl	161.86	170.38	+ 2.91	..
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Emerging Markets	58.42	61.98†	- 0.12	..

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gwth	77.95	82.93	+ 0.01	..
Dragon Growth	74.49	79.08	+ 0.02	0.36
Equity High Inc	88.42	94.06†	+ 0.31	4.24
-do- Accum	124.45	132.39	+ 0.43	4.24
Extra Income Inc	25.86	27.23	+ 0.07	7.80
Extra Income Acc	27.33	28.68	+ 0.08	7.80
European Gwth	61.66	65.42	+ 0.12	1.02
Evergreen	29.09	31.75	- 0.11	
General Equity	98.12	104.11	+ 0.14	2.96
Japan Growth	50.72	53.96	+ 0.14	.
Pedigree Gwth	60.12	63.96	+ 0.33	2.54
Pnd Sm Cos Inc	38.20	38.51	+ 0.19	1.44
-do- Accum	38.12	40.55	+ 0.20	1.44
Retirement Inc #	27.68	29.45	+ 0.14	5.91

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc	99.34	104.80	+ 0.60	4.06
Sector Value Gwth	99.62	105.30	+ 0.70	2.30
Hy 5 Europe	89.21	104.18	+ 0.40	1.92

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Income #	198.67	211.34	+ 0.54	4.05
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Intl Growth	86.67	92.19	+ 0.15	0.45
Ecology	101.50	107.98	+ 0.17	1.00
European	175.08	186.05	+ 1.70	.
Far Eastern	314.80	334.90	+ 3.40	.

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits Growth	25.28	26.89†	+ 0.12	2.07
UK Growth	433.39	461.04	+ 2.25	2.66
-do- Accum	580.87	617.94	+ 3.07	2.66

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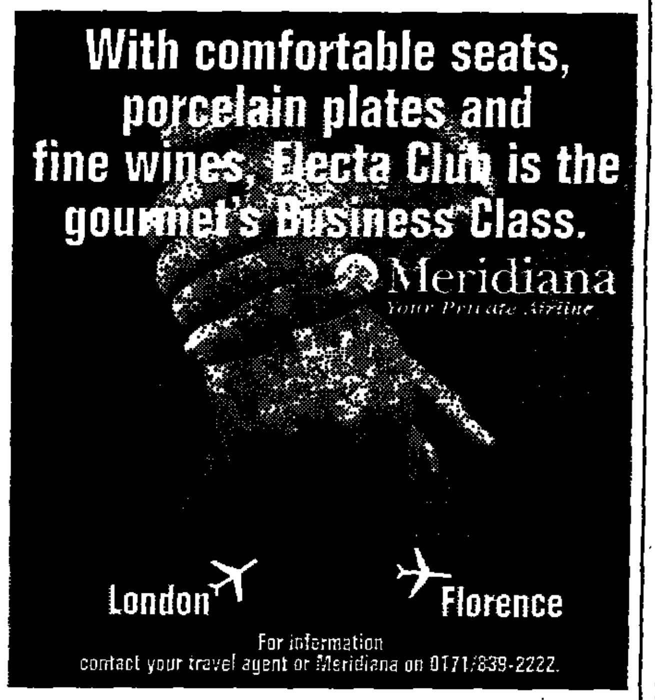
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Global Income	229.80	244.50†	+ 0.70	3.54
High Yield	149.80	159.10	+ 0.90	5.63
-do- Accum	476.50	506.90	+ 3.50	5.63
Smlr Cos Div	59.16	62.94†	+ 0.05	3.30
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	145.40	154.70		
Asian Growth	358.30	381.20	+ 5.10	0.22
-do- Accum	421.10	448.00	+ 6.10	0.22
North American	106.00	112.80	- 0.10	0.23
European Special	122.50	130.30	- 0.89	0.16

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M & S Inv Pfolio	172.10	177.50	+ 0.40	2.34
-do- Accum	282.80	208.30	+ 0.50	2.34
UK Sel Pfolio	151.20	155.80	+ 0.30	2.52
-do- Accum	179.60	185.20	+ 0.40	2.52

MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD
01204 384 842

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	71.54	76.10	- 0.55	3.04

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Law Report March 22 1996 House of Lords

Legal professional privilege lost in investigative child care proceedings

In re L (a Minor) (Police investigation: Privilege)

Before Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Steyn

[Speeches March 21]

Since proceedings under the Part IV of the Children Act 1989 were investigative and non-adversarial in nature and placed the welfare of the child as the primary consideration, an expert's report obtained by a party to care proceedings was not protected by legal professional privilege.

The House of Lords so held by a majority, Lord Mustill and Lord Nicholls dissenting, in dismissing an appeal by the mother of L, a minor, from the Court of Appeal (Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Lord Justice Morritt) (*The Times* April 25, 1995) which had upheld the order of Mrs Justice Bracewell that a medical report concerning L, commissioned by the mother in the course of interim care proceedings in respect of L and her brother, be disclosed to the Greater Manchester Police Authority.

Miss Lindsey Kushner, QC and Miss Lesley A. Newton for the mother; Mr David M. Harris, QC and Mr Anthony Hayden for the council; Mr David M. Harris, QC and Miss Yvonne Coppel for the police authority, Mr Ernest Ryder for the guardian ad litem.

LORD JAUNCEY said that in 1993 L, a child of two drug addicts, became seriously ill after ingesting a quantity of methadone. The mother's explanation was that the child's taking of the substance was accidental. Shortly thereafter the council obtained interim care orders in respect of L and her brother.

On the application of both parents, a district judge made the following order: "The parents shall have leave to disclose to a medical expert the court papers for the purpose of a report regarding the frequency of the consumption of methadone by L. The identity of such expert is to be disclosed to all parties. The report is to be filed..."

The effect of the order was that the report when filed would be available for inspection and copying by any party to the proceedings and the guardian ad litem.

The *mother's* solicitors duly instructed a consultant chemical pathologist. His report concluded that there was no evidence for habituation to methadone but cast serious doubts on the mother's account of accidental ingestion.

Thereafter the police, while attending a case conference, came to hear of the report and made application to be provided with a copy for the purpose of investigating criminal offences. The judge held that she had jurisdiction to order disclosure to non-parties and that her discretion should be exercised in favour of disclosure.

The mother appealed and while accepting that in general the court had jurisdiction to order disclosure to non-parties she maintained that it had no jurisdiction to order disclosure of the report to the police authority because (i) it was protected by legal professional privilege, and (ii) its disclosure would infringe her privilege against self-incrimination.

She further argued that the judge had exercised her discretion wrongly.

Legal professional privilege

The order of the district judge was in the form approved in *Oxfordshire County Council v M* ([1994] Fam 151).

Sir Stephen Brown, President, there said (at p162B): "Children's cases are to be regarded as being in a special category. In these circumstances, the court has power to override legal professional privilege in relation to experts' reports when it gives leave to parties to obtain them."

In *R v Derby Magistrates' Court, Ex parte B* ([1995] 3 WLR 681, 697) Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, had stated that "no exception should be allowed to the absolute nature of legal professional privilege once established."

However, it was clear from his reasoning and that of the other members of the committee that the reference to legal professional privilege had been in the context of the relationship between solicitor and client.

Miss Kushner had maintained that the absolute nature of the privilege attaching to the solicitor-client relationship extended equally to all other forms of legal professional privilege. His Lordship rejected that contention.

There was, as Mr Harris pointed out, a clear distinction between the privilege attaching to communications between solicitor and client and that attaching to reports by third parties prepared on the instructions of a client for the purposes of litigation.

In the former case the privilege attached to all communications whether related to litigation or not, but in the latter case it attached only to documents or other written communications prepared with a view to litigation.

Further, whereas a solicitor could not without his client's consent be compelled to express an opinion on the factual or legal merits of the case, a third party who had provided a report to a client could be subpoenaed to give evidence by the other side and could not decline to answer questions as to his factual findings and opinion thereon.

Since care proceedings under Part IV of the 1989 Children were non-adversarial in their nature, whereas litigation privilege was essentially a creature of adversarial proceedings, it followed that the matter was at large for the House to determine what if any role it had to play in care proceedings.

His Lordship concluded that care proceedings, which were primarily non-adversarial and investigative, were so far removed from normal actions that litigation privilege had no place in relation to reports obtained by a party thereto which could not have been prepared without the leave of the court to disclose documents already filed or to examine the child.

If litigation privilege were to apply to the report in the present case it could have the effect of subordinating the welfare of the child to the interests of the mother in preserving its confidentiality. That would appear to frustrate the primary object of the Act.

The *Oxfordshire* case had been argued on the assumption that the privilege existed but could be overridden. The better view was that litigation privilege never arose in the first place. It was excluded by necessary implication from the terms and overall purpose of the Act. That did not, of course, affect privilege arising between solicitor and client.

Privilege against self-incrimination

Where a court was asked to make an order for disclosure, compliance with which was likely to involve the danger of self-incrimination by the defendant, an order producing such a result should not be made. This, however, was not such a case. When the mother applied for the order the district judge had no reason to suppose that the report which was sought might incriminate the person seeking it.

It was only when the report became available that its possible incriminating effect became known and it was at that stage when the mother was first in a position to advance her claim to privilege by seeking a variation of that part of the order which required the report to be filed.

However, since the mother had voluntarily initiated the process, did not appeal the order when it was made and obtempered it without seeking a variation, notwithstanding that the unfavourable nature of the report had by then become apparent, she had to be taken to have waived any claim which she may have had to privilege against self-incrimination consequent upon the order of the district judge.

His Lordship emphasised that although he had assumed that the mother might have had a claim to privilege in respect of the report, he had not found it necessary to decide whether in law she would have had one but for her waiver.

Any such claim would on any view have been of limited value, since the maker of the report, if subpoenaed as a witness, would have been bound to answer questions as to the opinion which he had formed and the mother would have been bound to answer questions as to the opinion expressed in the report: see section 98(1) of the 1989 Act.

Exercise of discretion

The judge's exercise of her discretion had not been plainly wrong. She had taken the view, which was entirely justified, that the best interests of L would be served by disclosure. It could not possibly be said that in reaching such a decision she had acted in error.

In such proceedings it would be most unsatisfactory if the court, having information that the mother might have committed a serious offence against the children whose welfare it was seeking to protect, should be disabled from disclosing such information to the appropriate investigating authority.

Lord Lloyd and Lord Steyn agreed with Lord Jauncey.

LORD NICHOLLS, dissenting, said that legal professional privilege was deeply embedded in English law. That was confirmed recently by the House in the *Derby* case. The privilege against non-disclosure prevailed even where the privileged material might assist the defence of a person charged with murder.

Clear words or a compelling context were needed before Parliament could be taken to have intended that the privilege should be ousted in favour of another interest. The Children Act contained neither.

The crucial question was not whether and to what extent the proceedings were inquisitorial rather than adversarial. The question to be addressed was what was required if the proceedings were to be conducted fairly. Family proceedings were court proceedings. The court had to make decisions affecting, often profoundly, the whole future of a child and his or her family.

Whenever necessary, the court made findings on disputes of fact. It went without saying that the parties to such proceedings were entitled to have a fair hearing.

A fair hearing included the right to present one's case and to call evidence. Under English law an established ingredient of that right was legal professional privilege.

It had to be doubtful whether a parent who was denied the opportunity to obtain legal advice in confidence was accorded the fair hearing to which he was entitled under article 6(1), read in conjunction with article 8, of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1953) (Cmd 8969).

Parents and other parties should be entitled to such a fair hearing notwithstanding the special role of judges in family proceedings. If that was not to be, Parliament should say so expressly. The paramountcy principle had not to be permitted to become a loose cannon, destroying all around it.

In the course of the submissions it had been suggested that the Children Act had impliedly abrogated litigation privilege, while leaving legal advice privilege untouched. His Lordship could not accept that. The two sub-headings were integral parts of a single privilege.

In the context of court proceedings, the purpose of legal advice privilege would be frustrated if the legal adviser could not approach potential witnesses in confidence before advising the client. That was as much true in family proceedings as any other.

The privilege did not thwart the objective of family proceedings, or the application of the paramountcy principle. Parties were not able to suppress the evidence of an available expert, since his views could always be made available within the existing legal framework. In the time-honoured aphorism, there was no property in a witness.

He could not be required to disclose the contents of communications between himself and the first party's legal adviser. But his evidence on the issue before the court, which was all that was material, could be compelled.

There was an argument that since the expert could be compelled to give evidence, imposing a disclosure condition was doing no more than achieving, by a convenient and expeditious route, a result the court could in any event achieve: production of the expert's evidence on an issue in the proceedings. If that were the only effect of a disclosure condition, his Lordship would agree.

In practice, however, a disclosure condition would be bound to have an inhibiting effect on communications between the solicitor and the expert and would make significant inroads into the freedom and frankness of confidential communication which the privilege existed to secure. For that reason a disclosure condition went beyond the convenient ordering of evidence.

Lord Mustill agreed with Lord Nicholls.

Solicitors: Green & Co, Manchester; Mrs Susan Orrell, Manchester; Mr Patrick Mulvenna, Salford; Cliffords, Alderley Edge.

Tribunal should find real cause of dismissal

Speciality Care plc v Pachela and Another

Before Judge Clark, Mr N. D. Willis and Mr T. C. Thomas

[Judgment March 8]

Where there was a complaint of dismissal by reason of trade union membership it was for the industrial tribunal to find as a fact whether or not the reason or principal reason for dismissal related to the applicant's trade union membership within the meaning of section 152(1)(a) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, not only by reference to whether the employee had simply joined a union but also by reference to whether the introduction of union representation into the employment relationship had led the employer to dismiss the employee.

Tribunals should answer that question robustly, based on their findings as to what really caused the dismissal in the mind of the employer.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal from a decision of a Leeds industrial tribunal in August 1994, that the applicants, Helen Pachela and Karen Kellet, had been unfairly dismissed by their employers, Speciality Care plc.

The employers had appealed on the grounds, inter alia, that the tribunal's reasoning was inadequate and that the tribunal had misdirected itself as to the meaning of trade union membership for the purposes of section 152(1)(a) in the light of a subsequent decision of the House of Lords in the conjoined appeals of *Associated Newspapers Ltd v Wilson; Associated British Ports v Palmer* ([1995] ICR 406).

Section 152 provides: "(1) ... the dismissal of an employee shall be regarded as unfair if the reason for it (or, if more than one, the principal reason) was that the employee — (a) was, or proposed to become, a member of an independent trade union..."

Mr William Birtles for the employers; Mr Paul Rose for the applicants.

JUDGE CLARK, delivering the judgment of the tribunal, said that at the time of their dismissals in February 1994 neither applicant had completed two years employment. Their complaints were based on section 154 of the 1992 Act which excluded the two-year qualifying period provisions for a complaint of unfair dismissal where the reason related to trade union membership or activities.

The employers had resolved to alter the shift pattern of the applicants' employment as nursing home carers after their acquisition of the business following a transfer of ownership. The applicants were advised to join their union which they did. They refused to work the new shifts and were subsequently dismissed.

The industrial tribunal found that although their refusal to work their reassigned duties might have been one factor behind the decision to dismiss the applicants, the principal reason was that they had joined the union and had sought to use the union as the means of making their protest. It concluded that the principal reason for their dismissal was their joining the union and the dismissals were automatically unfair by reason of section 152.

The appeal would be allowed on the ground that the tribunal had failed to set out its reasoning sufficiently. There was no clear exposition of the findings of primary fact which led the tribunal to draw the inference that the principal reason for dismissal was union membership.

The case would be remitted to another industrial tribunal and it was necessary for the appeal tribunal to consider the application of section 152 of the 1992 Act for that tribunal to apply.

The industrial tribunal had decided the present case after the Court of Appeal's decision in *Palmer* but before that of the House of Lords. In the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Dillon had cited a passage from the judgment of Mr Justice Knox in *Discount Tobacco and Confectionery Ltd v Armitage* ([1995] ICR 431) and stated that that decision meant that it was open to an industrial tribunal to hold that an employee had been dismissed for being a member of a union if he had been dismissed for invoking the assistance of the union in relation to his employment. That represented the law to be applied by industrial tribunals unless it had been overruled by the House of Lords.

The House of Lords had expressed a divergence of views on the meaning of trade union membership but it was an issue which it was not necessary for them to decide and their remarks were obiter. It seemed that *Armitage* was correct on its facts.

It would be for an industrial tribunal to find as as fact whether or not the reason or principal reason for dismissal related to the applicant's trade union membership not only by reference to whether he had simply joined a union, but also by reference to whether the introduction of union representation into the employment relationship had led the employer to dismiss the employee. Tribunals should answer that question robustly, based on their findings as to what had really caused the dismissal.

Solicitors: Eaton & Co, Bradford; Mr J. O'Hara, Wimbledon.

Using same lawyer

In re a Bankrupt (No 400 of 1995)

Where real difficulties were foreseen in identifying and recovering assets for a bankrupt's estate, and no difficulties in quantifying any creditor's debts were expected, retainer by his trustee of the largest creditor's solicitor could be of great advantage to all with any risk of a conflict of interest no more than a distant possibility.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division on March 15 when dismissing an appeal by the bankrupt from the refusal by District Judge Jolly to set aside an order authorising the retainer by his trustee of such a solicitor to advise and assist him in the administration of the estate.

HIS LORDSHIP said that where there was a real risk of confidential information miscarrying or being misused, the court would treat that as paramount but here the solicitors were willing to undertake not to use, without leave, in pending litigation by the bankrupt against their client, any documents which they saw in their capacity as solicitors to the trustee.

That, in his Lordship's judgment, was the appropriate way to deal with the problem.

Solicitor must not benefit after contributing to other's mistake

Ernst & Young (a Firm) v Butte Mining plc

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment March 6]

A solicitor must scrupulously refrain from taking advantage of another's obvious mistake, especially in the most hostile litigation. That duty was intensified where he had been a major contributing cause of the mistake.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division in holding that service of a notice of discontinuance by Barlow Lyde & Gilbert of an action in which their clients, Ernst & Young, claimed some £315,000 from Butte Mining plc, the defendant, which, if valid, would have had the effect of preventing Butte from pursuing against Ernst & Young a counterclaim of the order of US$2 billion, be set aside as an abuse of the process of the court.

Mr Jonathan Hirst, QC and Mr Neil Calver for Ernst & Young; Mr Alan Boyle, QC and Mr Douglas Close for Butte.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that Ernst & Young had entered judgment in their action, in default of defence, on March 7, 1995. That same day Butte had applied to set that aside, supported by affidavits from its then solicitor to the effect that the omission to serve a defence had been inadvertent.

On April 7 there was exhibited to an affidavit sworn on Butte's behalf a draft counterclaim for at least £1.9 million. A counter-affidavit on behalf of Ernst & Young called that counterclaim "wholly spurious and belatedly raised in a transparently dishonest attempt to have a simple judgment ... set aside" illustrating that that was litigation of the utmost vigour. A further crucial affidavit on Butte's behalf, to which were exhibited a fuller defence and counterclaim, claimed damages of around £100 million.

The next material events occurred at the end of January 1996, when discussions led to the sealing by the court on January 31 of a consent order, setting aside the default judgment and continuing that Butte "be at liberty unconditionally ... to serve on [Ernst & Young] its defence and counterclaim".

Barlow Lyde & Gilbert, having taken care to obtain carriage of the order, got it soon after midday on February 1 and at 1420hr served it, together with Ernst & Young's now-disputed notice of discontinuance, on Butte's solicitors, Frere Cholmeley Bischoff. At 1545hr Frere Cholmeley Bischoff purportedly served Butte's defence and counterclaim on Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

A plaintiff's right to discontinue, without leave and at any time not later than 14 days after service of the defence, was subject to the overriding rule that he could not do so if it was an abuse of process: *Castanho v Brown & Root* ([1981] AC 557, 571).

Since the damages sought in the draft counterclaim were so very much larger than the sum awarded in the default judgment it was understandable that Ernst & Young might conclude that they would willingly relinquish the latter in order to scotch the former, because a fresh action by Butte, to recover those damages, would be statute-barred.

Conversely, Butte might conclude that Ernst & Young should, if possible, be stopped from discontinuing their action unless and until Butte's counterclaim had been served; once made, it would survive discontinuance, under Order 15, rule 2(3) of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

It was clear from the evidence of both the litigation partners concerned, Miss Caroline Bassett at Frere Cholmeley Bischoff and Miss Clare Canning at Barlow Lyde & Gilbert, that each was well aware of the implications of the position; but neither was sure that the other was equally aware of them.

Three issues had been canvassed:

1 Had Butte, at the time of service of the notice of discontinuance, already made a counterclaim so as to take advantage of rule 2(3)?

His Lordship analysed nine leading authorities on the topic, drawing the conclusion that the balance favoured the stricter view taken by Mr Justice Robert Goff in *Impex Transport v Thames Holdings* ([1981] 1 WLR 1547) so that Butte failed to show that it had.

2 Had there been an agreement between the solicitors that Ernst & Young would not serve any notice of discontinuance before expiry of Butte's time for serving its defence and counterclaim?

His Lordship analysed the evidence, and after finding that Miss Bassett must have made a deliberate decision not to mention discontinuance in speaking to Miss Canning, in case she put into her mind a thought that was not there, was not satisfied that either solicitor intended to conclude any larger agreement than that embodied in the agreed consent order and concluded that, construed naturally, without reference to the actual intentions of either, the order did not exclude Ernst & Young's right to serve such notice.

3 Did such service by Barlow Lyde & Gilbert amount to an abuse of process?

In *Fakih Brothers v A. P. Moller (Copenhagen) Ltd* ([1994] 1 Lloyd's Rep 103, 109) Mr Justice Hobhouse had said that in considering that issue one must have regard to the overall position between the parties and what the plaintiff was attempting to achieve by service.

Here, the overall position included looking at any allegation that one side had misled the other, thereby putting itself in a position to serve a notice which it might not otherwise have been enabled to.

Mr Boyle submitted that Barlow Lyde & Gilbert had deliberately misled Frere Cholmeley Bischoff as to Ernst & Young's intentions. Mr Hirst had candidly admitted devising a plan that Barlow Lyde & Gilbert should secure carriage of the order so that service of Ernst & Young's notice should anticipate or frustrate service of Butte's counterclaim, and if it was improper, he apologised.

His Lordship would not say "improper", but would say "imprudent", because of the predictable difficulty of carrying it through without prevarication, and in particular of deciding when proper professional conduct required the plan to be aborted.

His Lordship then considered in detail the evidence and held that Ernst & Young's notice had to be set aside.

Solicitors: Barlow Lyde & Gilbert; Frere Cholmeley Bischoff.

Excessive treatment of simple concept

Pavel v Sony Corporation and Others

Before Lord Justice Neil, Lord Justice Hobhouse and Lord Justice Aldous

[Judgment March 21]

Excessive elaboration of a patent case by all the parties, resulting in a lengthy trial of a simple concept in the Patents County Court, was criticised by the Court of Appeal, in dismissing an appeal by the plaintiff patent holder, Andreas Pavel, from orders made by Judge Ford sitting in the Patents County Court on March 1, 1993.

Mr Alastair Wilson, QC and Mr Richard Arnold, neither of whom appeared below, for the plaintiff; Mr Anthony Watson, QC, who did not appear below, and Mr Guy Burkill for Sony Corporation; Mr Richard Miller, QC, for Toshiba Corporation.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS said that the Patents County Court was established to provide a cheap and quick method of resolving patent disputes. The patent in the present case had 2½ pages of written description which could be understood without any scientific help.

Despite that, the parties' pleaded cases were set out in 261 pages with extensive annexes. There were nearly eight days of hearings about interlocutory disputes and the trial lasted nearly four weeks.

The plaintiff ended up needing legal aid and the defendants expended a considerable amount of costs.

It was apparent from the transcript that the trial proceeded with both parties chasing every point, whether material or not. Whether the fault for those lamentable events was that of the procedure adopted or something else was not for his Lordship to decide.

However, some alteration was necessary if the purposes of the Patents County Court were to be achieved.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said he agreed about the excessive elaboration of the proceedings. The procedure adopted was disproportionate to the issues to be tried.

There was both an over-elaboration of the pre-trial procedures and a failure to use the preparatory procedures to limit the scope of the trial. They achieved the worst of both worlds. The result had been inefficiency, delay and excessive cost.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that the patent specification explained that the invention related "to an audio listening apparatus, including a belt, for the hearing of music and other sounds in high fidelity stereophonic reproduction". The concept was a simple one and ould be readily understood.

The Court of Appeal in *Chaplin Patents Holding Co Inc v Group Loftus plc* (*The Times* January 12, 1994) pointed out that the Patents County Court was established to handle the shorter and less complex patent actions and in order to effect a saving in costs.

It was plain beyond argument that in the present case savings in time and expense had not been achieved.

Solicitors: Maycock's (who were not instructed below); Baker & McKenzie; Lawrence Jones (who were not instructed below).

Witness statement admissible

Regina v Horseferry Road Magistrates Court, Ex parte Doung

Any witness statement relied on in committal proceedings, whether under section 6(1) or 6(2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, had to be admissible under section 102 of that Act.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Forbes) so held on February 16 when allowing an application by Hoa Doung for judicial review of the decision of Mr Anthony Davies, Horseferry Road Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, on November 16, 1995 whereby he committed the defendant for trial at Southwark Crown Court.

The case had been listed for committal under section 6(1) for the defendant to clarify aspects of the chief prosecution witnesses' evidence. The defendant had objected to the complainant's statement being read out but the stipendiary magistrate directed that such matters went to the quality of the evidence and purported to commit the defendant under section 6(2) on papers which included the statement which had been objected to.

MR JUSTICE FORBES said that whether the committal was under section 6(1) or 6(2), any witness statement relied upon had to be admissible under section 102 and statements could not be tendered if they were not admissible under that section.

The witness statement had been improperly tendered and without that there was insufficient evidence to commit. Accordingly the stipendiary magistrate did not have the power to commit the defendant under section 6(2) and the application would be allowed.

Law of contract

E. D. & F. Man Ship Ltd v Kvaerner Gibraltar Ltd (The Rothnie)

A contract which provided: "This agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Gibraltar and the parties hereto submit to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Gibraltar" created a strong prima facie case that that jurisdiction was the appropriate one.

Mr Justice Cresswell sitting in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division so held on February 2 in granting a stay of proceedings begun in England by the plaintiff, E. D. & F. Man Ship Ltd, on a summons of the defendant, Kvaerner Gibraltar Ltd.

MR JUSTICE CRESSWELL said that the fact that the parties had agreed the above phrase in their contract created a strong prima facie case that that jurisdiction was an appropriate one. Accordingly the burden shifted to the plaintiffs to show that there were special circumstances by reason of which justice required that the trial should nevertheless take place in England.

If it was wrong that the burden shifted, in the alternative, the non-exclusive jurisdiction clause was a strong factor in determining in which jurisdiction the action had the most real and substantial connection.

THE TIMES

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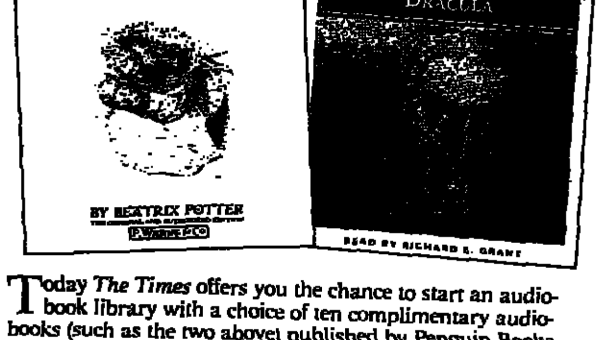

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO. 000795 OF 1996
IN THE MATTER OF
HARVEY NICHOLS (HOLDINGS) LTD
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated Wednesday, 6th day of March 1996, confirming the reduction of the capital of the above Company from £14,000,000 to £11,000,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 11th March 1996.

NORTON ROSE
Kempson House, PO Box 570,
Camomile Street, London EC3A 7AN
(Ref: CAXR/63/Y157925)
Solicitors for the Company

No 00725 of 1996
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF APPLIED HOLOGRAPHICS P.L.C.
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 6th March 1996 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above named Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 18th March 1996
DATED this 20th day of March 1996.
Dickinson Dees (Ref E1 Cross House, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1SB.
Solicitors for the above named Company.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO. 000792 OF 1996
IN THE MATTER OF
HARVEY NICHOLS AND COMPANY LTD
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated Wednesday, 6th day of March 1996, confirming the reduction of the capital of the above Company from £36,000,000 to £11,000,000 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 11th March 1996.

NORTON ROSE
Kempson House, PO Box 570,
Camomile Street, London EC3A 7AN
(Ref: CAXR/63/Y157925)
Solicitors for the Company

BLATCON LIMITED
(In Administrative Receivership)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

A meeting of the creditors of Blatcon Limited is to be held at 31 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5QD on 18 April 1996 at 11 am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.

Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0117-929-1500) and ask for Rosemary Lacey.

(Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to 31 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5QD).

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting
P R C Densham.
Joint Administrative Receiver.
22 March 1996.

FIREPLACES & FITTINGS LTD
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act, 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD on Thursday 4th April 1996 at 12.00 noon, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act. Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2) (a) of the Act, Mr Stephen James Wainwright of Poppleton & Appleby, 32 High Street, Manchester, M4 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.
DATED 19TH day of March 1996.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.
P TWIGG, DIRECTOR.

Notice of Appointment of Administrative Receivers
La Maison (Textiles) Limited

Registered number: 1869519. Nature of business: Manufacturers of domestic textiles. Trade classification: 8. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 13th March 1996. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): Allied Irish Bank plc. APPOINTEES: M Cohen and G S Kinlan, Joint Administrative Receivers, (office holder nos) 6826/01 and 8268/01). Address BDO Stoy Hayward, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
SANTA BARBARA LIMITED

Registered number 2685663. Nature of business: Construction & Development. Trade classification 23. Date of appointment of administrative receivers, 18 MARCH 1996 Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s), FIRST NATIONAL BANK PLC. A R Bloom and G H Hughes, Joint Administrative Receivers, 6462 and 6629 Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU.

CENTERCORE (UK) LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at York House, 199 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7UT on the 29th day of March 1996 at 11.30 am for the purposes, if thought fit, of nominating a Liquidator and of appointing a Liquidation Committee. Any proxy to be used at the meeting must be lodged at Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU not later than 12 noon on the business day before the meeting. A statement of claim must also be lodged.

NOTICE is also given that, for the purpose of voting, secured creditors must (unless they surrender their security) lodge a statement giving particulars of their security, the date when it was given, and the value at which they estimate it.

A list of the names and addresses of the creditors of the above-named company may be inspected at the offices of Ernst & Young, York House, 199 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7UT between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm on the two business days preceding the meeting.
Dated this 13th day of March 1996.
G. MITCHELL. Director.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receivers
R LEVY & CO LIMITED

Registered number 548926. Trading name Army & Navy Stores Nature of business Camping and Clothing Retail. Trade classification 22. Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s) 18th March 1996. Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s) Mr Geoffrey Levy. APPOINTEES: I B Richards and J W Powell Joint Administrative Receivers (office holder nos) 004461 and 007888. Address Levy Gee, 4th Floor, Southfield House, 11 Liverpool Gardens, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1RY.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
Chancery Division
Companies Court
In the Matter of Index FX Limited
And in the Matter of the Companies Act 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 20th March 1996 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named company from £3,000,000 to nil and the subsequent increase to such number of shares of US$1 each (rounded down to the nearest US$1) as will have an aggregate nominal value (rounded down as aforesaid) equivalent to £3,000,000 at the rate of exchange offered by Barclays Bank Plc at midday on the date of the registration of the said Minute. The Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 21st March 1996.
DATED this 21st day of March 1996.
M.W. Cornish & Co.
11 Old Jewry,
London EC2R 8DU.
Solicitors for the above-mentioned named Company.

TRANSCO UNION LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of The Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 7 Kenrick Place, London W1 on 29th March 1996 at 12.00 noon for the purposes provided for in Sections 98 et seq.

A list of names and addresses of the above Company's Creditors can be inspected at the offices of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the Meeting of Creditors.
DATED this 20TH March 1996.
G Waugh, Director.

[illegible] من الاصل

■ THEATRE 1

Hell, it seems, is *Disgracefully Yours*, Richard O'Brien's feeble new night of rock and smut

■ THEATRE 2

The sleazy side of Swansea: *Flesh* is an aimless but lively show about bodies bought and sold

THE TIMES ARTS

■ JAZZ

The magnificent Cassandra Wilson applies her smoky contralto to a superbly eclectic range of songs

■ MUSIC

Veteran touch: the 82-year-old George Lloyd conducts the premiere of his latest choral work

JAZZ

Hues of the blues

HEAVY with the musky odour of joss-sticks and filled with assorted guitars, the odd mandolin and a plethora of gongs, chimes and hand drums, the stage suggested that a species of New Age folk music was about to be played. American singer Cassandra Wilson's first selection, Neil Young's wistful ballad *Harvest Moon*, did little to dispel this notion. In a languorous, smoky contralto, she drawled out the song's plaintive, sentimental lyrics over a minimal but effective backing of steel guitar and softly chattering percussion, lightly decorated with the occasional cascade of harmonics from the band's musical director, guitarist Brandon Ross.

Son House's chilling *Death Letter Blues*, however, immediately shifted the scene firmly from Malibu to Wilson's birthplace, Mississippi, and — courtesy chiefly of Robert Johnson, whose classic blues *32-20* and *Hellhound on My Trail* were the highlights of her subsequent 90-minute set — the spirit of the Delta blues hovered over the rest of the performance.

Cassandra Wilson
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Wilson, the daughter of jazz musician Herman B. Fowlkes, started her musical life as a folk singer, subsequently joined a blues band, and rose to fame in 1980s New York with cutting-edge jazz figures such as Steve Coleman and Henry Threadgill, so her eclecticism is hard-earned and wholly uncontrived. In addition, she eschews gratuitous novelty in the songs she selects, always showing them in a new and unexpected light by approaching them in a highly personal manner.

Thus she managed to replace the bleak anguish of Hank Williams's *I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry* with a gentle, meditative melancholy without doing undue violence to the composer's intentions, and her brooding version of U2's *Love is Blindness* retained all the song's earnestness while jettisoning its bombast. In similar fashion she transformed the Monkees' *Last Train to Clarksville* from uncomplicated high-school fun-seeking to serious lovers' tryst, and imbued Van Morrison's *Tupelo Honey* with a languid sensuality lacking in the original.

Although both the band and she showed some rough edges, she left the audience on their feet, shouting for more.

CHRIS PARKER

THEATRE: Richard O'Brien goes through Hell; plus sins of the flesh in Croydon

Repent, sinners, repent

Disgracefully Yours
Comedy

Somewhere in my memory-bank is the voice of a vicar, grimly menacing me and my brethren with an afterlife consisting of agonising, unending fire. I have to say that I am far more intimidated by the Hell to which Richard O'Brien hospitably invites us in *Disgracefully Yours*, peopled as it apparently is by fun-loving devils who spend eternity singing ear-splintering rock songs and making dismal, rather smutty jokes. I vow that, starting tomorrow, these pages will radiate peace and charity and, whenever they can, help little old ladies across the road.

Starting tomorrow, let me repeat. I admired O'Brien's musical spoof of B-movies as much as anyone who did not actually wear an anorak emblazoned "I love *The Rocky Horror Show*"; but he cannot be allowed to get away with stuff as awesomely feeble as this. Usually when people wander in and out during a show, as they did on and off during *Disgracefully Yours*, I mutter "sit down" in their direction. This time I was inwardly begging everyone between me and the stage to stand up and keep standing.

The curtain rises on two women and a man in spangled frock coats wiggling and bopping in front of what appears to be a vast, tattered, black plastic bag. Hell, they confide, is now a "groovy and happy place", and by way of proving it, on sidles a smirking O'Brien as an updated Mephistopheles. He, too, sports a frock coat, plus cloven clogs and, sticking out of his bald white head, two tiny warts that are presumably meant to be horns. Out of his rear end comes a pink, twirly tail ending in an arrow that seems to point everywhere except the place I was soon longing to go, which was the exit.

Anyway, he proceeds to sing a large number of upbeat and occasionally even tuneful songs composed by himself and, in between them, to enunciate his theology. This is that Hell is now closed to sinners, trainspotters, ad men, indeed everyone who does not love sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. It is Club Inferno plc, "the party place for people who want to party forever". Before long, he has put on a pink suit, the three-person chorus have donned frilly pink skirts, and they all proceed energetically to party for what indeed seems like for ever.

I cannot judge the lyrics, except the few helpfully printed in the programme, because they are inaudible. I can only say that if O'Brien's ode to himself is typical ("makes you stammer with his infernal glamour", "a slick looker, a philosophical hooker") then the band of Black Angels should turn their instruments up still higher. But I do have a view on his wit. That gaseous substance should be turned off before it finishes off the ozone layer.

There are jokes about Dirty Gertie, meaning Goethe, and Joan of Arc, "a right flaky little pain in the arse", who inexplicably came to Hell and fell in love with a centaur that was "hung like a horse". There are cracks about the meaning of the words succubus and incubus ("in and suck are the clues here") and God and Lucie, alias Lucifer, who were close "but not so close they were the subject of gossip". "I got to the bottom of Sodom," says O'Brien in the breathless evangelist's shriek that passes for his voice, "since there was no tomorrow in Gomorrah."

After some 100 minutes of this, imagine what it was like to be told that he loved us in the audience so much that, "hunky, funky and spunky" as we were, we could join him in Hell. More fervently than ever, I determined to turn over a new leaf. The thought of being loved for eternity by this ghastly, boneheaded old hippie is enough to turn anyone's mind to hopes of Heaven.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

DONALD COOPER

Infernal nuisance: a devilish Richard O'Brien horns in as the Lord of Darkness in *Disgracefully Yours*

Strong meat served in a stew of confusion

Flesh
Croydon Warehouse

THE subject, of course, is human flesh, young human flesh and, at least from time to time, prostituted flesh. The four youngsters from the Swansea-based, aptly named *Frantic Assembly*, present themselves in various guises, girl tart, boy tart, lovers, despairers, but though nobody could dispute their limb-threatening energy, the argument of this 80-minute show is a wandering thread.

The limbs they threaten are their own. Time and again the choreography devised for them by Christine Devaney (from V-Tol Dance Company) requires them to fling their bodies onto the floor. Korina Biggs dies in Scott Graham's arms, collapses, is hauled up and goes down again. Likewise Cait Davis becomes a dead weight for Steven Hoggett to hold and drop. Separately they crash on to the ground, or with a partner, spring up and do so again. Some sequences come with sexual gestures, in another they jump on Bibles; in yet others the emotions are unclear and seem just generalised rage or discontent.

The four are a likeable bunch, and three of them performed in Frantic's last two shows, *Klub* and its physical, not very verbal version of *Look Back in Anger*. Graham and Hoggett look in their twenties but the girls look impossibly young, almost jailbait, adding a frisson to their accounts of servicing men in Cardiff hotels or dancing in their lingerie at Japanese conventions.

In their boots and black suits they begin by telling us about their desirable features, in the style of a sex ad, then turn the telescope and describe us — only guessing, of course, only guessing — which segues into the appraising comments of a pimp. We hear what they want the money for, and the girls recall teenage flirtations with daddy. The boys' childhoods remain a blank, though drama teachers seem to have found their charms enticing.

Throughout these confessions they use their own names, in a text written for them by Spencer Hazel. He reveals an unusual fondness for biblical quotation and makes rather too liberal a use of Dylan Thomasy wordplay — though London Lighthouse and Mary Whitehouse make a nice pairing. Twice Graham calls out "Stop!" and sexual behaviour freezes. At the end, when the other three are doing a fair amount of groping, he throws a bucket of water over them.

I confess I could not decide what the show was telling us. Customers are not dismissed with contempt, neither economic hardship nor the dangers are emphasised, and there is not a single mention of drugs — extraordinary in a play about 1990s youth. The performers have an easy, conversational style that is certainly appealing, and are also pretty sexy, but while I am certain they want to convey something really urgent and moral, they have not yet found the signs and images to do so.

JEREMY KINGSTON

New ways with old influences

CONCERTS

LPO/Haitink
Philharmonia/Lloyd
Festival Hall

ON THE hundredth anniversary of its premiere, Dvořák's Cello Concerto was the centre of an all-Dvořák programme by the London Philharmonic Orchestra, with Bernard Haitink as the guest conductor. An ailing Yo-Yo Ma had to withdraw as soloist, and his replacement was the Norwegian Truls Mork, whose finely poised playing was no less attuned to what many consider the composer's crowning achievement.

It was in no sense a blockbuster performance. Mork is too sensitive a musician to overplay his hand, or even his bowing arm, to make a superficial effect. Instead he sustains a lyrical flow of eloquent tone, confident in its highlights and romantic in its warmth of expression. A particular virtue was the hushed poetry of his soft playing.

Haitink is not a conductor often associated with Dvořák, although he no doubt performed plenty of his music in his pre-operatic days, and he was a sympathetic advocate from the opening *Slavonic Rhapsody* (Op 45 No 3) onwards. This bowled along with splendid momentum and rhythmic impetus, and a blend of instrumental colour from the orchestral playing that extended into the concerto as well, where the pitfalls offered by lethargic tempo were firmly avoided.

Haitink also showed no inclination to indulge excessive sentiment in the *New World Symphony*, preferring to generate a resolute spirit in the music's progress, abetted by individual instrumental colouring of which Thomas Davey's cor anglais solo in the largo movement was only the most prominent example.

NOTHING if not dynamic in his 83rd year, the Cornish-born composer George Lloyd has delivered himself of a major new choral work and summoned the energy to conduct its premiere through almost an hour's duration. *A Litany* is a florid setting of verses from John Donne's 17th-century religious poem of that name, commissioned for the Guildford Choral Society.

The choir's intensely committed singing was one of the virtues of the work's first hearing, as was the richly colourful, sometimes overcrowded, textures from the Philharmonia Orchestra. The soprano Janice Watson and baritone David Wilson-Johnson sustained their solos purposefully, even when the sheer weight and diversity of Lloyd's orchestration, redolent with brass and drums, rendered much of the vocal writing difficult to disentangle.

In style the work is a throwback to the English oratorio tradition of yesteryear, with generous tunes over firmly anchored harmonies, and an occasional tendency to extend a phrase for rather more than it is worth.

It is divided into four movements. One is a thanksgiving to the Virgin Mary engagingly set for unaccompanied chorus, and the solo soprano sings the praises of the "blessed, glorious Trinity" with unabashed fervour. Early pictorial Stravinsky comes to mind at the start of a long final movement, wherein the choral writing grows increasingly ecstatic as the words implore a divine response to prayer, ending in a major-key paean of confidence.

Reaching out to Lloyd was no great stretch from Elgar earlier in the programme, when *The Music Makers* was made to sound unduly lugubrious under the conducting of Hilary Davan Wetton, music director of the Guildford Choir. But the eloquent contralto solo of Catherine Wyn Rogers was a delight.

NOEL GOODWIN

Battling Britten

OPERA

The Rape of Lucretia
RNCM, Manchester

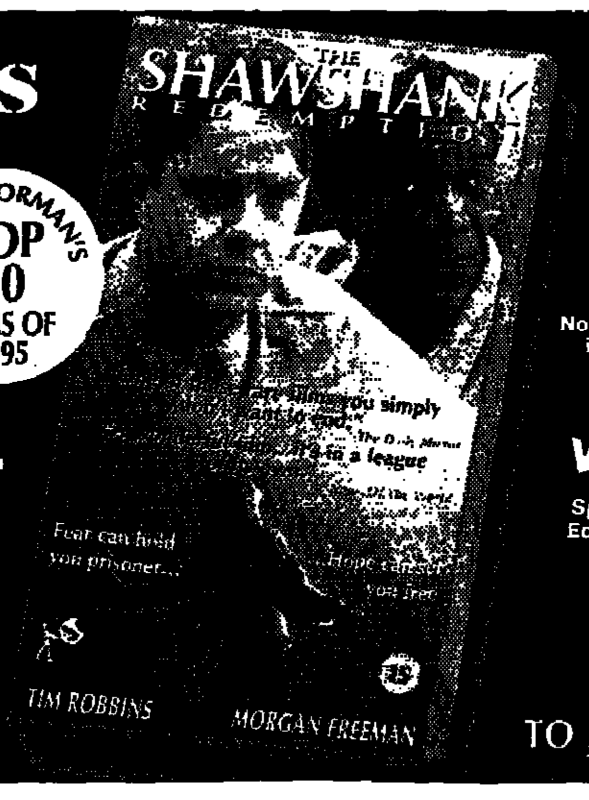
STUDENTS must be prepared for the worst. If there are operas as nasty in storyline and at the same time as righteous in morality as *The Rape of Lucretia*, then perhaps the Royal Northern College of Music should see to it that its singers are professionally inured to them too. They are unlikely, however, to find as choice an example of a libretto clumsy on every level associated with a score interesting in every way.

Not even Britten could convincingly set lines such as "Collatinus is politically astute", but the exposure of his musical thinking in his first chamber opera is as revealing as anything else he wrote. Echoing Bach and Mahler and anticipating a whole range of his own development up to *Billy Budd* and then the church parables, the *Lucretia* score is essential and fundamental Britten. That is another reason why the RNCM should mount a production of it. Every singer and every instrumentalist involved in the four performances — three of them conducted by Timothy Reynish, the other by Paul Mann — should have little difficulty with the Britten idiom from now on.

Whether the college has the voices to cast it is another question. Certainly, the two baritones — Adrian Powter as Tarquinius and Peter Molloy as Junius — and the solitary bass — Richard Wood as a particularly impressive Collatinus — are more than adequate. The more dubious casting is Christine Rice as Lucretia: although it is a full-scale contralto part, her voice is too heavy until her lament at the end, where the expressive imperative and the vocal colouring most effectively coincide. As for the Male and Female Chorus, one could wish for more control at the top of the range from Alberto Janelli and more clarity in general from Polly Kirwan.

Matt English's set is too spacious and too bright for claustrophobia, which is an essential element of the piece, but Stefan Janski's production is tactful in avoiding the she-really-wanted-it implications of Ronald Duncan's libretto.

GERALD LARNER



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■ CHOICE

Lesley Garrett sings her way through popular classical ditties

VENUE: Sunday at the Festival Hall

■ POP 1

Mark Knopfler's first solo album, *Golden Heart*, reveals a man seriously out of touch

THE

ARTS

POP

■ POP 2

. . . whereas the Essex trio Underworld continue to woo a broad public to dance sounds

■ POP 3

. . . and the durable Taj Mahal, in his 36th album, offers a fine, relaxed trawl through the blues

NEW ALBUMS: **David Sinclair** sees Mark Knopfler get lost on his first solo outing

In deep and dire straits

MARK KNOPFLER
Golden Heart
(Vertigo/Mercury 514 732)

HE REMAINS the architect of the bestselling British album of them all — *Brothers in Arms*, by Dire Straits — so you can never count him out completely. But even by the standards of a man who has long made a virtue out of being unfashionable, Mark Knopfler sounds a trifle out of touch on *Golden Heart*, his first solo album.

A collection of sedate rock and love songs, flavoured with discreet Celtic and country music textures, it is performed with Knopfler's customary ease and consummate fluency. Locating an unlikely point in the no man's land between roots-rock and easy listening, where penny whistle meets pedal steel, the opening track, *Darling Pretty*, finds this politest of pickers at his most lugubrious: "There will come a day, Darling Pretty/There will come a day when hearts can fly."

That's as may be, but not for one moment does it sound as if this album will fly. As the gruff, barely whispered ballad of *Golden Heart* itself gives way to the soothing shuffle of *No Can Do* and the prim romanticism of *A Night in Summer Long Ago* ("My lady may I have this dance?"), you find yourself longing for something, anything, to happen.

There are moments when the pulse quickens, as on *Cannibals*, a retooled version of the Dire Straits hit *Walk of Life* with cajun trimmings. And *Imelda* introduces a heavier guitar sound along with a handful of southern blues licks (the lyric is about Imelda Marcos's penchant for buying shoes: how current is that?).

UNDERWORLD
Second Toughest in the Infants
(Junior Boy's Own JBOCD4)

ALTHOUGH hampered by a lack of proper record company muscle, Underworld caused a remarkable stir with their last album, the groundbreaking *dubnobasswithmyheadman*, released in 1994. One of the first serious dance acts to accommodate the tastes of the broader rock fraternity without surrendering one iota of credibility, the trio from Essex continue to weave restless collages of electronic rhythmic patterns, conventional instrumentation and odd, dislocated bursts of vocalese on the follow-up, *Second Toughest in the Infants*.

The opening track, *Juanita*, is a wondrous 16-minute epic that wears its Kraftwerk influences on its sleeve and provides a powerful springboard for the unpredictable musical abstractions which follow. These range from the gently skittish jungle beats and jazzy piano chords of *Banstyle/Sappys Curry* to the systems music approach of *Blueski*, wherein a bluesy guitar riff is placed on a loop and subtle layers and twists are massaged into the mix at each four-bar revolution, rather like a piece of clay being turned on a wheel.

TAJ MAHAL
Phantom Blues
(BMG 01005 82139)
MONSTER MIKE WELCH
These Blues Are Mine
(Tone-Cool TC 1154)

IT WOULD be hard to find two albums that demonstrate the durable and elastic appeal of the blues more forcefully than these offerings by 55-year-old veteran Taj Mahal and 16-year-old newcomer Monster Mike Welch. Mahal's 36th album (approximately) is a relaxed, but wonderfully upbeat trawl through various under-exposed blues and R&B standards.

Welch's debut is a contrastingly explosive collection of original compositions, albeit firmly rooted in the 12-bar tradition, designed to showcase the astounding touch and technique of this Boston-based guitarist. With a sound and playing style which most closely resembles that of the late Stevie Ray Vaughan, Welch also passes muster as a vocalist. But he lacks the depth of expression which, as Mahal conclusively demonstrates, comes only with maturity.

RIDE
Tarantula
(Creation CRECD 180)

IT SEEMS hard to believe now, but before Oasis came along Ride were one of the Creation label's brightest hopes. Six years down the line and royally outclassed by the bands of the Britpop revolution, the Oxford quartet have wisely called it a day.

Their final album, *Tarantula*, which they have decided to delete just one week after its release, is the usual mixture of retro guitar riffs and personality-free harmony vocals shoring up carefully structured but strangely unmemorable tunes.

More than once, the lyrics betray some of the disillusionment that must have seeped into their hearts during the final months: "Drinking in a hotel room, I hate what I've become/I'm turning back to nothing, all my dreams have come undone." It's a sorry end to a promising career, and not an especially good album either.

Ever-ready to tackle the hot topics of the day, Mark Knopfler breaks the news that Imelda Marcos owns lots of shoes on *Golden Heart*

TOP TEN INDIE ALBUMS

1	(What's the Story) Morning Glory?	Oasis (Creation)
2	Second Toughest in the Infants	Underworld (Junior Boy's Own)
3	Countdown 1992-1983	Pulp (Nectar Masters)
4	Tarantula	Ride (Creation)
5	Definitely Maybe	Oasis (Creation)
6	Expecting to Fly	Bluetones (Superior Quality)
7	Post	Björk (One Little Indian)
8	Paranoid & Sunburnt	Skunk Anansie (One Little Indian)
9	Black Love	Afghan Whigs (Mute)
10	On	Echobelly (Fauve)

From today, we are expanding our service to include specialist as well as general charts. Next week, look out for the Dance Top Ten. © CIN

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

MUSIC AT THE SOUTH BANK: Conductor Andrew Davis, flautist Patrick Gallois and pianist Artur Pizarro team up with BBC Symphony Orchestra for the first of this weekend's musical highlights, tonight. The London Philharmonic offers Mahler's Sixth Symphony tomorrow (Bernard Haitink conducts) and Lesley Garrett on Sunday, or you can enjoy music theatre for families, Bach's *St Matthew's Passion*, pianist Till Fellner or a concert performance of Chabrier's *Gwendoline*.
Box Office: (0171-960 4242). ♿

ALMEIDA OPERA: A starry line-up comes together for an evening of old and new opera transcriptions and variations, to benefit the theatre's annual contemporary opera and music theatre season. Among the names to catch are Imogen Cooper, Leslie Howard, Jonathan Dove, Thomas Adès and James Crabb.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Sun, 7.30pm. ♿

ELSEWHERE

STIRLING AND EDINBURGH: Elgar Howarth leads the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** for the premiere of two commissions tonight: Alasdair Nicolson's *Breakdance* and Lyell Cresswell's *Dragspil* for accordion and orchestra. James Crabbe is the soloist (he is also at London's Almeida on Sunday, above). Over in Edinburgh, clarinettist Richard Stoltzman joins Tadaaki Otaka and the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** in a programme of Richard Rodney Bennett, Brahms, Bartók and Bizet.
MacRoberts Arts Centre, University of Stirling (01786 461081). Tonight, 8pm. **Queen's Hall**, Clerk Street ♿ (0131-668 2019). Sat, 7.45pm

LEEDS: David Ross plays the failing music hall entertainer, mourning the fall of the British Empire, in John Osborne's **The Entertainer.** A transfer from Birmingham Rep.
Quarry, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Hall Mount (0113-244 2111). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Apr 3 and 17, 2pm and Apr 13 3pm. Until Apr 20. ♿

MANCHESTER: In a busy weekend for the BBC orchestras, the great mezzo soprano **Maria Ewing** joins Yan Pascal Tortelier and the **BBC Philharmonic** for an all-French tribute to the Director of the BBC Proms, John Drummond.
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street (0161-834 1712). Sat, 7.30pm. ♿

SALISBURY: The Playhouse transfers a new adaptation of **Tess of the D'Urbervilles** from Derby. Mark Clements directs, with designs by Colin Mayes, and Tara Woodward plays the plucky heroine facing betrayal by an encroaching modern world.
Playhouse, Malthouse Lane, (0722 320333). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, Thurs-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 2.30 and Sat, 4pm. Until Apr 13. ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Beirut: Uncovering the Past (0171-636 1555) . . . **Hayward:** Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144) . . . **Matthiesen Gallery:** Leighton and his Sculptural Legacy 1875-1930 (0171-930 4215) . . . **National Gallery:** Old Master paintings from Doria Pamphilj Gallery (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery:** David Livingstone and the Victorian Encounter with Africa (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy:** Frederic Leighton; London Original Print Fair (0171-439 7438) . . . **Serpentine:** Jean-Michel Basquiat (0171-723 9072) . . . **Tate:** Cézanne, extended Sat hours (0171-887 8000/ 0990 661 010) . . . **V & A:** The Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **COMPANY:** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

■ **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED):** The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard. *The Complete History of America (abridged)* plays Tues.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737). Wed-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun, 4pm. ♿

◩ **HARRY AND ME:** Sheila Hancock, Ron Cook, Dudley Sutton in new Nigel Williams play, a dark comedy recording the death throes of an appalling chat show. James Macdonald directs.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Now previewing, 7.30pm. Opens March 27, 7pm.

◩ **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT:** Philip Schofield plays the lad with the pretty jacket in a nine-week revival of the first Lloyd Webber/Rice creation.
Labatt's Apollo, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0171-416 6082). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

◩ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

■ **SKYLIGHT:** Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 3pm

■ **STANLEY:** Interesting Pam Gems play, with Antony Sher a persuasive Stanley Spencer, inspired by Cookham, troubled by wives.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Mon, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. In rep. ♿

◩ **TAP DOGS:** Dein Perry's sextet of dancers in working-boots returns to its building-site set. High energy stuff, though some dance aficionados have been unimpressed.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Previews tonight, Mon, 8pm; Fri, Sat, 6pm, 8.45pm. Opens Mar 26.

■ **TOMMY:** Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. ♿

□ **TRAINSPOTTING:** The current cult show: Irvine Welsh's drug-blasted, foul-tongued Edinburgh no-hopers. Bleakly funny now and then.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Tue-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed and Sat 5pm, Sun 4pm.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CYCLO (18): Over-forceful portrait of Ho Chi Minh City's urban hell. From the director of *The Scent of Green Papaya*, Tran Anh Hung.
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470)

JEFFREY (18): Should a gay man have sex? Life-affirming comedy falls flat. With Steve Weber and Patrick Stewart. Director, Christopher Ashley.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666)

RHYTHM THIEF (18): Desolate lives on New York's Lower East Side. Energetic but exasperating no-budget movie. Director, Matthew Harrison.
Prince Charles (0171-437 8181), today and Mon only

TOY STORY (PG): Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of fretful toys. With the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. Director, John Lasseter.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

LA CEREMONIE (15): The perfect housemaid gets her revenge on her employers. Absorbing version of Ruth Rendell's *A Judgement in Stone*, with Isabelle Huppert and Sandrine Bonnaire. Director, Claude Chabrol.
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15): John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy from Elmore Leonard's novel. Director, Barry Sonnenfeld. With Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Renee Russo, Delroy Lindo.
Empire ♿ (0171-437 1234) **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **NIXON** (15): Exhausting, overlong portrait with Anthony Hopkins and too much razzle-dazzle from director Oliver Stone. With Joan Allen, Powers Boothe, Ed Harris and Bob Hoskins.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **RESTORATION** (15): Life and loves of a 17th-century physician (Robert Downey Jr). Costume extravaganza loses its way. With Meg Ryan and Sam Neill. Director, Michael Hoffman.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **West End** (01426 915574)

◆ **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** (U): Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Director, Ang Lee.
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Chelsea** (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzons: Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **West End** (0171-369 1722) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** ♿ (0171-435 3366) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

ENTERTAINMENTS

ANTIQUE & ART FAIRS

BRITISH ANTIQUE DEALER'S ASSOCIATION FAIR. 19-26 March. Open weekdays 11am-8pm. Weekend 11am-7pm. Last day 6pm. Information: 0171-730 6730. DUKE OF YORK'S HEADQUARTERS (Nr.Sloane Sq) Kings Rd, Chelsea, SW3.

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COMPTON CASSEY GALLERIES Withington, Glos. Tel: 01242 890 500/224. Gallery 1. Mixed Cont/20th c Paintings - Ward, Tabner, Armfield, Tindle, Clausen, Farmer, Hemingway, Ryder, Williams, Cuming, P.J. Crook. Gallery 2: Equestrian Paintings and Sculpture - Blacker, Piazzotta, Hann, March 23 - 6 April. Brochure and map available.

EXHIBITION
RUSSIAN ART FROM THE 1930s
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FROST AND REED, 16 Old Bond Street, London W1X 3DB. Tel: 0171 629 2457. Exhibition until April 19: Nineteenth Century ANIMAL PAINTINGS.

GALERIE NOT 54 Mill Lane, West Hampstead, NW6 1NJ. 0171 433 3528. FLOWER PAINTINGS & ABSTRACT WORK by Peter McCarthy. Tue - Sat 11am-6pm.

JEREMY BARLOW ROI 14th-30th March. 80 new oils of France & Italy. Colour brochure available. LLEWELLYN ALEXANDER 124-126 The Cut, Waterloo (opp Old Vic) Tel: 0171 620 1322/1324.

MAGGI HAMBLING Sculptures in bronze 1993-95 & monotypes. 16 Mar - 16 Apr. BOHUN GALLERY 15 Reading Rd, Henley. Oxon. Tel/Fax: 01491 576228

MARBLE HILL HOUSE, Richmond Road, Twickenham (English Heritage) 0181 892 5115 Palladian Thameside villa - early Georgian paintings & furniture.

MICHAEL PARKIN GALLERY. 11 Motcomb St SW1 235 8144. British Artists at the Academie Julian last day Friday 22/3/96, 9.30am - 6pm.

THE PICCADILLY GALLERY, 16 Cork St. W1X 1PF 0171 629 2875. MAX BEERBOHM Mon-Fri 10-5.30 Sat 10.30-1.00 until 30th March.

The 1996 WELSH CONTEMPORARIES ANNUAL at ORIEL CONTEMPORARY ART, 25 Princess Road, Regent's Park, NW1. Open daily through April 2nd. 0171 483 1375

CONCERTS

24th March 7.30pm Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, Lon SW1 0171 494 5051
In The Mood
A Tribute to the Music of Glenn Miller with the Herb Miller Orchestra
Special Guests The Kaye Sisters

EXHIBITIONS

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■ POP 4

From local hero to world star: how Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan won a global audience for Qawwali music

■ POP 5

Cast reveal how to meet aliens, write hippy lyrics, and still get into the Top 20

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 6

If you want to hear a German woman called Billie Ray sing soul, Miss Martin's here

■ TOMORROW

Isabelle Huppert makes her British stage debut: read Benedict Nightingale's verdict

Beats with steel

THE world of pop is not overendowed with German singers who adopt country cliché names and display a penchant for soulful ballads and modern dance beats. This is, in fact, a category with only one member: Billie Ray Martin.

Her eccentric road to fame led her last year to the hit *Your Loving Arms*, a song that won both a solid dance-floor following and critical credibility, the latter partly because of her early associations with Electribe 101 and the Grid.

But it was the mixture of vocal passion and pulsing rhythms that guaranteed the song its success, and her live show follows the same formula. From the opening *Hands Up and Amen* to the final *You and I (Keep Holding On)*, her voice takes us back to the 1960s sounds of Stax and Atlantic, while the drum sound whisks us forward into contemporary clubland.

Billie Ray Martin
UEA, Norwich

Not that it is quite this simple. Her dress — a black number slit to the waist, and embellished by a silver-ringed belt — bears the mark of early 1970s disco, as do her strictly choreographed dance routines. Her singing, meanwhile, conjures up the dignified gospel of Aretha Franklin and the bare emotion of Lorraine Ellison. On *Deadline for my Memories*, she berated unseen lovers, her voice swooping from resentful anger to desperate pleading. And below all this rumbled the techno beats.

Martin added one further ingredient to her distinctive musical concoction: a pedal steel guitar. It joined the keyboards, percussion and backing singer that made up the rest of her band. So the gently rolling *Still Waters*, with its swooning guitar trills, sounded as if it were emerging from a fortuitously mistuned radio picking up several stations at once.

Occasionally she appeared to lose interest — her big hit was treated perfunctorily. But mostly she was enthralling, and she managed to fashion a quirky, inspired order out of her highly personal collection of elements.

JOHN STREET

David Toop meets Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, ubiquitous superstar of world music

After the likes of Peter Gabriel and Eddie Vedder, Canadian Michael Brook is the latest westerner to call on Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's magic

Best all-rounder since Botham?

Under a clouded night sky in Lahore, 10,000 spectators throng the circular Gaddafi Stadium, all caught up in the grip of musical ecstasy. Chanting and dancing, they are anticipating the arrival on stage of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, the 47-year-old singer currently making the transition from national treasure to worldwide celebrity.

All around me, men and women have been falling into trances, the wilder ones being dragged out of the arena by groups of soldiers. Now the build-up to the main event begins in time-honoured fashion. "The great music star in Pakistan," bellows the MC, who then launches into a list of some of the films that have used Nusrat's devotional songs in unlikely and sometimes controversial settings: *The Last Temptation of Christ, Dead Man Walking, Bandit Queen, Natural Born Killers.*

The following day, still reeling from the intensity of the concert, I attempt to find some logic in the many contradictions raised by the congenial, reserved and rotund Khansahib. Nusrat lives in the expensive Lahore suburb of Faisal Town, his house guarded day and night by a uniformed guard armed with a machinegun. Inside, the music room walls are hung with photographs of Nusrat in the company of rock star Peter Gabriel, the inevitable Imran Khan, General Zia and other notables. Despite random power cuts, constant visitors and the shrilling of mobile phones, the peaceful atmosphere offers a respite from the noise barrage of car horns that rages in the street outside.

For many years, Nusrat was a frequent flier, performing concerts and recording cassettes for Pakistani and Indian fans living in all corners of the globe. His association with Peter Gabriel's Real World Records and the Womad Festival, however, saw a new phase in his career. World music's audiences were stunned by the passion and energy of Qawwali, the devotional music form of which Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan is regarded as the greatest living exponent.

> ❛ I have the basic knowledge of classical music; I have learnt all styles ❜

For a while, Peter Gabriel's commitment to Nusrat seemed almost an indulgence. Now, the steady stream of releases and concert appearances is paying off. Two songs recorded with Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder have been acclaimed in America as highlights of the *Dead Man Walking* soundtrack and a duet with Björk is mooted. Meanwhile *Night Song*, the new album produced by Canadian guitarist Michael Brook, proves that religious and musical traditions can survive and develop without compromise in the digital age.

Some of the puzzles created by such developments are difficult to fathom. I ask Nusrat how he is able to negotiate such a bewildering maze of musical styles: one week in India recording Bollywood film songs, then off to Wiltshire to lay vocals over Brook's fusion of ambient, rock and trip-hop, then another week in America with Vedder, singing country-tinged ballads with slide guitars, then back to the home crowd in Pakistan for lengthy performances of traditional Qawwali.

"Because I have the basic knowledge of classical music and I have learnt all styles," he says, "there is no difficulty in adjusting. This is part of my family tradition." Not completely satisfied with this answer, I asked Brook for his impressions.

"I think we can't map our idea of the sacred and profane on the way he thinks about it," Brook says. "He's not exactly spreading the word, but he's spreading the sacred music. There's no such thing as bad publicity."

Nonetheless, Nusrat is discerning about his collaborations. He sings with consistent fervour and astonishing technique, although a cassette of his music that I purchase at Karachi airport turns out be a fairly resistible home-grown hybrid of lugubrious synthetic strings and crude drum machine programming.

Perhaps one of the keys to this versatility is the Sufi religion itself. Qawwali is a musical and poetic expression of Sufism, the mystical and, in certain respects, relatively liberal branch of Islam. The aim of the music is to elevate the audience to a spiritual plane. To this end, there is no substitute for hearing Qawwali in concert. For the boisterous crowd in Gaddafi Stadium, Nusrat and his group of vocalists, percussion and harmoniums launched straight into a short set of greatest hits to create immediate frenzy.

Two nights earlier they had performed to an invited audience of aficionados — although not, as was rumoured, the Princess of Wales. With the original venue waterlogged by heavy rain, the substitute hall turned out to be a characterfully decrepit cinema hidden within the old city's maze of dark, winding streets. Here, the poetic elaborations were developed at a more subtle pace, the ecstatic repetitions burning on a longer fuse.

One question arises without fail when religious music is performed to audiences from other faiths or no faith at all. What can the music possibly mean when it is plucked out of its natural context?

"The message of Qawwali is not only for Muslims," Nusrat says. "There have been very great people in all religions. Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, they all had good Sufis. The message of the Sufis is the same — how to reach to God — but they all have different ways."

So Sufism can be seen as a flexible, humanitarian belief system that sits at the core of a variety of religious practices. Nusrat appears to be applying this attitude to music, using his rhythmic and melodic virtuosity over Massive Attack's urban dub or Bally Sagoo's Asian hip-hop. The integrity stays intact because he is able to convey an unusual intensity of feeling to audiences, no matter how wide the linguistic and cultural gap.

In Pakistan, tension is rife. At one extreme is satellite television, featuring a flood of increasingly erotic film music clips from India; at the other extreme, the hardline mullahs condemn all singing and dancing as contrary to Islamic beliefs. With unshakeable devotion to the idea of music as spiritual expression, Nusrat sails on a wave of global popularity through these hazardous waters. As an improviser, he ranks alongside jazz greats such as John Coltrane, but his chameleon-like ability to blend into all environments places him at the forefront of music-making.

"What I have to do is ensure that the beauty of the work does not get destroyed," he says, "but at the same time the new generation gets the message too. That is a lot of work."

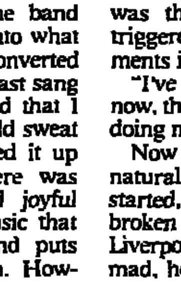
● Night Song *is released on Monday by Real World*

Power and the morning glory

A fledgeling Oasis with hippy lyrics and a space cadet at the wheel — Cast achieve perfection

In his spare time, Julian Cope makes up words. One of his best was "drude", a cross between "druid" and "dude". It's a highly appreciative term for those who are spiritually cool; who are plugged into their souls and attempt to broadcast some kind of higher consciousness.

Cast's John Power is most certainly a drude. His songs tackle subjects pop has ignored since the 1960s — the importance of being in touch with the land, at one with humanity, and constantly seeking a higher truth. Any kind of spirituality has been embarrassed out of pop since punk put cynicism and nihilism top of the agenda, dismissing any attempt at widening pop's reach as "hippy rubbish". That Cast have managed to write almost exclusively about "hippy" topics and still had a brace of Top 20 singles and a No 1 album is a tribute to Power's almost uncanny ability to write searing, dizzily harmonic choruses that remind one of the fledgeling Oasis.



CAITLIN MORAN

But it's this traditional rock element that has so vexed Cast's detractors. Their debut album, *All Change*, contains four fine singles and the sensuously epic *History*, but still seems too *earthbound*, too four-square and regular to convey the thrill of Power's singular talent. The first time I heard Cast as they *should* be was in a tiny, box-like room in Manchester. A DJ, engineer and the band were also squeezed into what was, essentially, a converted shower cubicle, but Cast sang out so sweet and loud that I thought my skin would sweat sheet gold as I soaked it up from 4ft away. There was something wide and joyful here, the kind of music that aerates the blood and puts electricity in the skin. However, on record it generally sounds like six dustmen throwing the band into a pit.

"Ah, I wrote that album four years ago," Power sighs, stretching out on his hotel bed and drinking thirstily from a bottle of water. "The songs I was writing were a cry for attention, a declaration of intent. I'm still learning. None of us really knows that much about playing instruments, and writing songs is a difficult thing that you gradually master — I still don't *quite* know where to go to find the songs. You find that if you induce certain moods in yourself, then the music will come. But it's like mental exercise, you have to work up slowly, or you'll break your brain." He giggles, a Liverpudlian gurgle that breaks into a joyful yelp half-way through.

Another subject that has given Cast's detractors a field day is Power's almost unequalled qualifications as King of the Space Cadets. On top of his hippy lyrics and almost surreal back-to-the-land monologues ("I'm vegetarian, but if I killed the pig myself, I'd be more inclined to eat meat — you know, if you kill it yourself that shows *respect*"), Power has also had a run-in with aliens.

"I don't really care if anyone believes me or not," he says. "I was lying in bed, and I felt a presence, and a raspy voice in my ear said: 'Human'. That's it, really." He shrugs. "People say I'm off my head, but there still isn't an internationally agreed system of measuring sanity, so how would they know?

"Maybe it's the drugs. I think taking hallucinogens is essential to human evolution — there was that piece in *The Sunday Times* recently that suggested that the reason we all evolved from apes into human beings was that tribes of apes migrated through Africa towards Europe, and ate their way through fields of magic mushrooms on the way. And it was the hallucinations that triggered the creative developments in our brains.

"I've stopped taking acid now, though," he adds. "It was doing my head in."

Now he gets his highs more naturally. "When this band started, I was living in a huge, broken house in Sefton Park, Liverpool — the landlord was mad, he just forgot to charge us rent. We used to rehearse in the front room, hours on end writing songs, working out what we wanted to say. And I'd feel so happy imagining what it would be like to play these songs to people, and have them understand.

"And tonight, I played those same songs to 2,000 people — and more than half of them *knew*. I could see it in their eyes. And that makes me the happiest man in the world."

● *The single,* Walkaway, *is released on Monday by Polydor*

The die is Cast: a sound "so sweet and loud that I thought my skin would sweat sheet gold as I soaked it up"

I'VE SEEN THE HISTORY OF ROCK 'N ROLL ...
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EDUCATION

John O'Leary introduces *The Times* five-day guide, starting on Monday, to your child's progress through the national curriculum

Parent primer for the classroom tests

After eight years of planning, piloting and arguing, the Government's testing programme in schools will be fully implemented this spring. Almost two million pupils aged seven, 11 and 14, will have their progress through the national curriculum assessed. Parents will find out how their children are doing and, for the first time, there will be some measure of primary schools' performance.

Teachers' acceptance of the tests (grudging or otherwise) has altered the climate in schools to such an extent that revision sessions are becoming commonplace. A daily series in *The Times* next week will enable parents to play their part in the process.

Many families remain baffled by the tests, unsure whether they matter to their children's future and taken aback by the unfamiliar nature of the papers. For all three age groups, the aim is to identify strengths and weaknesses, rather than to aid selection. But, in schools where any form of streaming is in operation, the results may influence future grouping.

Most 11-year-olds will be left in no doubt of the importance of the results to their school because they will be used to compile the first primary school league tables. The rankings, which will be published early next year, may prove highly influential in parents' choices of school.

For 14-year-olds, the tests are designed to be a step on the way to GCSE — for many the nearest they will come to a formal examination until then. The results can offer reassurance or a warning signal.

Testplan will provide sample questions from last year's tests, with tips from teachers on what to expect and how best to prepare. The series will help parents to put the results in context, unravelling the national curriculum's assessment system and showing how pupils fared last year.

For the newest tests, at 11, *The Times* has joined forces with the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) to produce three books of sample questions and advice. The separate books on English, mathematics and science are published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

The 11-year-olds will be the first to have taken more than one set of "Key Stage" tests, having been among the assessment pioneers at the age of seven. The results should be a guide to their progress during the years of junior school.

7 11 14
TESTPLAN

The tests have been the most controversial element of the Government's school reforms launched in 1988. Criticised when they were introduced for seven-year-olds — and boycotted when the process reached secondary schools — national assessment is still unpopular among teachers.

Recent research among members of the generally moderate Association of Teachers and Lecturers showed that most staff still resented the time spent on last year's tests. Few felt that they revealed anything new about their pupils and there was a general belief that teachers' own assessments were undervalued.

There is little likelihood of further resistance from the teaching profession next term, however, when the tests are scheduled to take place. Although the National Union of Teachers is to debate a motion at its annual conference, demanding that the boycott is restored, the union's rules make action improbable.

Other unions, though unhappy with the introduction of more league tables, and critical of some of last year's marking, are not contemplating industrial action. More than 90 per cent of schools set the tests and reported the results in 1995, and the SCAA expects the proportion to rise again in May.

Ministers' original testing plans have been scaled down in line with the curriculum itself. As a result, the tests are limited to the core subjects of English, mathematics and science, with seven-year-olds assessed entirely by their teachers.

The papers have been designed to mirror classroom activity while concentrating on key areas. The first run of Testplan, last year, was welcomed by the SCAA as an encouragement to parents to involve themselves in their children's preparation. The signs are that this trend will accelerate in the weeks ahead.

Some relaxed familiarisation with the tests, using the sample questions to be published next week, should help pupils and reassure parents. The series begins on Monday with a timetable of this year's tests and a look at what will be expected of seven-year-olds. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will focus on 11-year-olds, with Friday devoted to the tests at 14.

The Parents' Guide to National Tests, *published by HMSO, on sale at £4.95 each for English, mathematics and science.*

Launchpad for a life in politics

The NUS presidency is a breeding ground for rising stars of new Labour, says **David Charter**

You appear on *Newsnight*, the *Today* programme and *Question Time*. You have to chair an annual conference of 2,000 rowdy delegates and manage a staff of 80. Occasionally you have to fight deportations, or debate with government ministers. All by the time you are 25. No wonder the presidency of the National Union of Students is a breeding ground for new MPs.

The "mainstreaming" of the student movement is also evident from the progression of recent leaders who would once have espoused radical communism but now advocate new Labour. Four of the last six presidents are being lined up by the party for seats at the next general election.

They hope to emulate Jack Straw, the NUS's most auspicious old boy, who has risen from the presidency in 1969-71 to become Shadow Home Secretary.

Mr Straw's stewardship of the NUS is remembered for his attempts to make the union a serious political force by opposing calls for violent action after the 1968 French student revolt. In this sense, the class of '96 are his true heirs. The NUS has at times been a refuge for extremists, but recent presidents, who since 1982 have all been Labour supporters, have tried to stamp out the sit-in mentality.

They include the current incumbent, Jim Murphy, a Scot who has yet to complete his law and politics degree at Strathclyde University but, at 28, is on the shortlist to fight Glasgow Eastwood. His predecessor Lorna Fitzsimons, also 28, has four rivals for the Labour ticket in Rochdale.

She succeeded Stephen Twigg, who at 29 has been selected to fight against Michael Portillo in Enfield Southgate. Phil Woolas, holder of the office in 1984-86, is now a full-time officer for the GMB union. After one disappointment at the polls, in the Littleborough and Saddleworth by-election, he has bounced back to win the nomination to fight the reorganised constituency in the same area.

> 'It's an experience most people don't get till they're 50'

These are merely the politically successful ones. Not one president since Straw has failed to progress to a high profile career, often with a dash of politics thrown in.

Take Sue Slipman, for example, president in 1977-78 and the first female leader of the NUS. A staunch member of the Communist Party while in office, Slipman changed her clothes to become a founder member of the short-lived Social Democratic Party. As an SDP candidate she fought unsuccessfully in two general elections — 1983 (in Basildon) and 1987 (Hayes and Harlington) — before renouncing party politics upon the merger of her party with the Liberals.

Ms Slipman, who ran the National Council for One Parent Families before becoming director of the London Training and Enterprise Council last year, is in no doubt why the top job in the student movement makes for budding MPs and high-profile personalities.

"Being NUS president is the most enormously enriching experience in which, at a very young age, you get to run an organisation which employs a large number of people, run a conference of 2,000 screaming Trotskyists, and negotiate with government ministers. It gives you a position most people do not normally get to until they are in their fifties."

This helps to explain why NUS presidents achieve success early in life. Several have made their mark in the media.

David Aaronovitch (president 1980-82) reached the top of the BBC's home affairs department before becoming a writer for *The Independent*. Trevor Phillips (the first black president in 1978-80) became a presenter at London Weekend Television and rose to become head of current affairs before going freelance.

Jack Straw, in 1970, opposed violent NUS action; Jim Murphy, top, and Stephen Twigg could be his natural heirs

Maeve Sherlock (president 1988-90) runs Ukcosa, an organisation which represents the interests of overseas students. Vicky Phillips (1986-88) is a solicitor after a stint as national women's officer at Labour Party headquarters. John Randall (1973-75) worked for a large public service union before becoming director of professional standards at the Law Society. Digby Jacks (1971-73) became an official with the MSF union after a brief teaching career.

But it is in politics that NUS presidents seem destined to make their most public mark. Neil Stewart (1982-84) worked for the former Labour leader Neil Kinnock from 1989 to 1992 and now runs his own conference, events and PR firm in London. Charles Clarke (president 1975-77), who was a Kinnock aide for nine years, also runs a PR firm in the capital. Both men have been seeking Labour seats but so far without success — Mr Stewart missed out on Aberdeen at Christmas.

Lorna Fitzsimons (1992-94) is now a political consultant for a lobbying company in London. She believes her chances of winning Rochdale, if selected, are high because of her track record in defeating the Conservatives.

"In my time in office, the Government tried to shut us down and we were the only Labour-led collective organisation to defeat them in 17 years," she says.

She agrees recent presidents have been on the "soft Left" and is right behind the current drive to convince students that they have to pay for higher education through a fairer loan system.

Stephen Twigg (president 1990-92) seems to have amassed the classic CV in preparation for a new Labour seat in the Commons. He was elected to Islington council, in north London, within days of stepping down from the NUS presidency. Currently the Labour Party whip on the council, he is in a three-way contest for the leadership which will be decided next month.

Mr Twigg worked as parliamentary officer for Amnesty International and then for the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, before becoming an aide to Margaret Hodge, MP, in 1994. He has just left to work alongside Ms Fitzsimons.

"I joined the Labour Party at 15," he says. "The presidency put you through just about every political situation you will ever have to face."

The heir apparent at this year's NUS conference, which takes place next week in Blackpool, is another Scot, Douglas Trainer, the current president of NUS Scotland. He is the official Labour Student candidate for NUS presidency. Does he too aspire to reach Westminster?

"I think the career paths of my predecessors are very interesting but my main focus at the moment is to take NUS forward," says Mr Trainer. That's what they all said at 25.

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Jonathan Sale continues his series on university days

Acting as the Bad Student of Wits

It was a scene as ominous as any in the *Ruth Rendell Mysteries* which Janet Suzman has been filming for ITV. And it was real. A student at Witwatersrand University in South Africa during the late 1950s, Ms Suzman had an encounter with a man from the South African Special Branch. It was neither her work nor her acting that he wanted to discuss.

"He had a thick file marked with my name," she recalls. "He turned the pages slowly and I read them upside down. They had everywhere I'd been and everyone I'd spoken to. I was interviewed, not to say interrogated."

The secret policeman homed in on her planned journey to Europe. "My father said I should get visas for every country under the flightpath in case the plane came down. The Special Branch didn't like the idea of all these visas to African countries." Mozambique, a centre for gun-running, caused particular concern. Ms Suzman was not guilty as charged — in fact, she was not charged with anything — but she had always known that her cards were marked: for a start, she was the niece of Helen Suzman, the MP in lonely opposition to the Nationalist Government.

"In many respects it was a good time at 'Wits'; life was full of interest and everybody was politically involved. But it was a very troubled time, a very bad time for the university. There was quite a lot of violence on the campus. It was packed with spies; poor students who needed a bit of money infiltrated the campus to report back to the Special Branch — 'The Greys' — and student cars were followed everywhere."

Racially mixed Witwatersrand was humming with opposition to the Extension of University Education Bill.

Janet Suzman

When this became an Act in 1959, it sliced higher education into racial ghettos. "Known — not affectionately — as the Academic Apartheid Bill, this was a massive blow to academic freedom. I didn't know at the beginning that I was going to leave South Africa but it became clear that this was the final straw.

"We were marching all the time, with banners saying 'Knowledge is colour-blind'. For two out of the three years I don't recall studying at all. It was an education in life rather than English and French, the subjects I was meant to be studying. Lectures seemed to get in the way of demonstrations." Although a member of the dramatic society, she did not see herself as a budding actress. Yet her time on stage was not wasted: "I was so bad that it was going to be necessary to study this thing called acting.

"It was a sense of curiosity rather than overflowing ambition that brought me to drama school in London. We did a production of *Love's Labour's Lost* on Vespas. There was a production of *Julius Caesar* on the steps of the Neo-Classical Main Hall; for some reason I played Calpurnia as an Indian, in a shocking pink sari."

She made her exit immediately after her finals. "The exams were held in temporary huts built during the war. There was no air-conditioning and the temperature was in the 90s and 100s; you had to wipe your hand on your clothes before writing so that your pen didn't slip out of your fingers."

Then she was off. Her flight, the visas for which had so upset the Special Branch, was a round-trip of Europe's cultural hotspots organised by the fine arts faculty. For her, it was a one-way ticket.

She has been back to university, this time as Visiting Professor at Westfield College, as it then was, in London. Her career as one of Britain's leading actresses has not prevented frequent visits to her homeland — "South Africa is so deep in my blood I have never lost my passion for it" — and it was there that she directed a play for the first time. She leaves in May to direct her latest production, Brecht's *Good Woman of Setzuan*: shifted to a South African setting, it is retitled *The Good Woman of Sharkville*. Any former secret policemen in the audience will remember the director as "The Bad Student of Witwatersrand".

We don't want bores

Universities demand social skills, says **Brian Heap**

Sixth-formers who have sailed through their A-level exams, gaining the highest grades, are being rejected by universities because they lack social skills.

One Cambridge tutor says: "We had to turn down one bright scientist this year because he was so boring. He could talk about nothing but horses."

Admissions tutors at Oxford and Cambridge have three or more applicants for each place (seven in veterinary science this year) and they have to find a way of selecting one.

Another tutor says: "It would be a refreshing change if schools told us occasionally about a minus point, such as possible nervousness at an interview. This could be quite helpful in the case of an outstanding candidate whose interview performance might detract from his or her other qualities."

Most schools are so busy dealing with their overriding importance of academic achievement that they tend to ignore the vital element in the selection process — the interview.

One tutor's report read: "He found the topic very difficult to handle and couldn't finish the questions. When coached further, he still found the whole questions baffling. His understanding of the physical basis of the concept discussed was rather simplistic and did not equip him to extend his reasoning to more complex situations. I feel he had been very poorly prepared."

Many schools claim they give mock interviews, although this usually means the student sitting across the table from a sympathetic, friendly teacher, unwilling to subject pupils to unfriendly fire.

But at Bryanston, the Dorset independent school, every university applicant faces an interview of half an hour with one or two outsiders, specialists in their subjects, with a video camera filming them. This is followed by a debriefing to highlight weaknesses. The aim is not to try to prime the student for the perfect interview but to eliminate any obvious failings.

> 'One language applicant didn't know a noun from a verb'

Questionnaires completed by admissions tutors provide a useful insight into why students are spurned for non-academic reasons. One pointer is "lack of breadth of interests", for example on animal issues for veterinary science, and on social topics for applied social studies or social administration courses.

Business studies dons mention "lack of commercial interest and experience", while weaknesses in numeracy and literacy are also cited as common failings, along with the inability to work in a team or take an active part in project discussions. Complaints are legion about poor communication skills, imperfect English and bad spelling on forms, with one language applicant not knowing the difference between a noun and a verb.

Lack of motivation and drive are also featured in some tutors' comments. One complained: "Some applicants aren't hungry enough." Others criticise pupils who "just dream about being lawyers".

The ability to manage one's time is also given as a priority as well as "the ability to pick yourself up at an interview after a difficult start".

Typical complaints reflect their subject areas.

In drama, for example, they complain about immaturity, poor interpersonal skills and lack of ability to respond to a challenge. Some applicants are badly advised at the outset. One boy arrived for a philosophy interview and asked the admissions panel to consider him for sports studies.

At the end of the day tutors seek several qualities and will reject the applicant who is unable to cope with questions about their studies.

As one said: "We look for interviewees who respond positively to ideas, who can think on their feet, who can intelligently engage with critical issues and sustain an argument. If they don't evince any of these qualities, then we reject them."

● *Brian Heap is the author of* Degree Course Offers *(Trotman, £15.95).*

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The Board is under represented by women and ethnic minorities and welcomes applications from candidates in both of these categories.

If you are interested in joining Thames Valley University's Board of Governors and would like to receive an information pack and details of how to apply, write to:

Mary Joyce,
Secretary to the University & Clerk to the Board of Governors,
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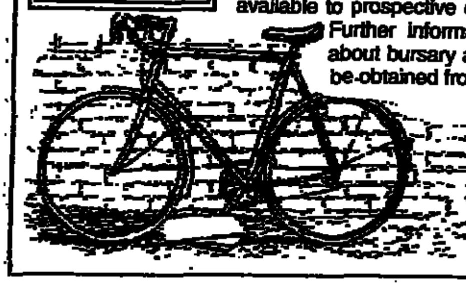

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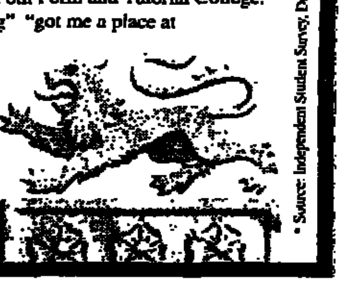

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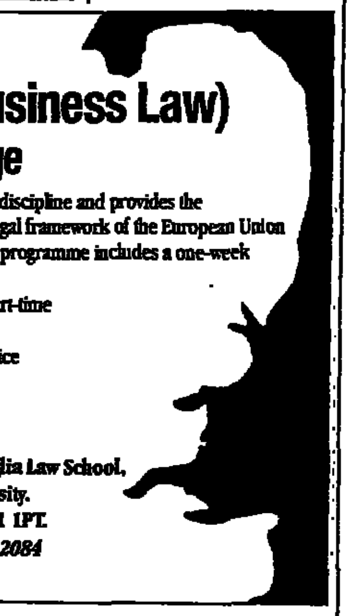

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Enquiries for October 1996 to **Susan Thornton, Course Administrator,** quoting reference number **E-T-396** on **0116 252 2346.**

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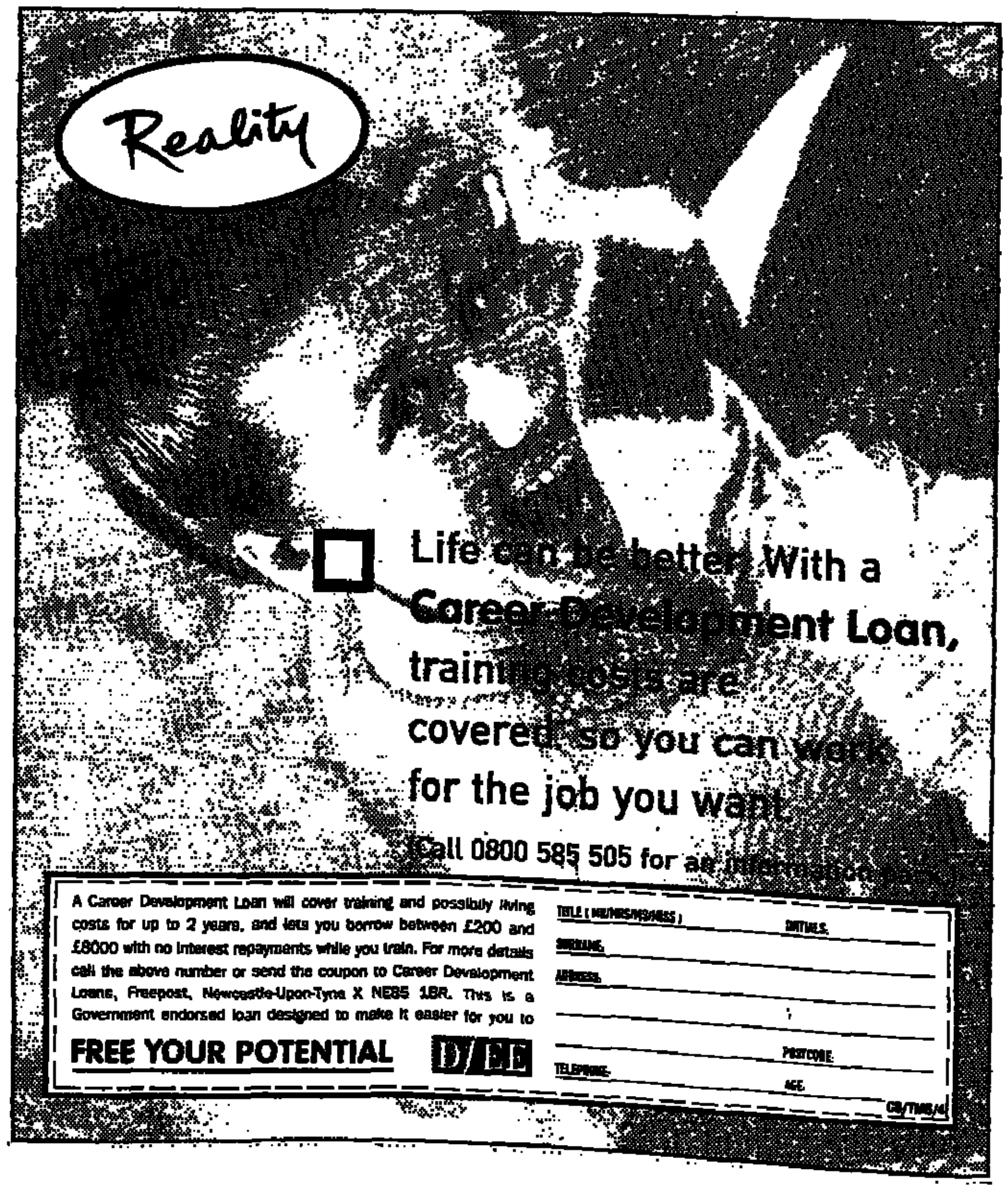
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3

Leeds find solace in four-year sponsorship deal

By Peter Ball

LEEDS United quickly found consolation for their FA Cup defeat on Wednesday by Liverpool. Yesterday, they announced a new four-year sponsorship from Packard Bell to replace their existing deal with Thistle Hotels, which expires in the summer. "It is a tremendous relief," Bill Fotherby, the Leeds managing director, said. "It is the second largest sponsorship in the Premiership."

Leeds refused to give figures and although sources put the figure at £4 million over the four years, that is not consistent with Fotherby's claim, as Liverpool, Manchester United and Arsenal are believed to get sums well in excess of that.

The defeat of Leeds at Anfield was as comprehensive as the 3-0 scoreline suggests. Robbie Fowler and Stan Collymore have received most of the attention recently, but Steve McManaman has been a key figure in their flowing attacks, and on Wednesday he took centre stage with two goals.

"By ten to eight I thought that the best thing that could happen to us would be an injury to Steve McManaman," Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, said yesterday as he prepared to lift his shaken team for the Coca-Cola Cup Final against Aston Villa on Sunday. Although Ford was booked for a fierce tackle on McManaman, the Liverpool forward shook off its effects and tormented Leeds.

Liverpool now meet Aston Villa at Old Trafford, while Chelsea qualified to meet Manchester United in the other semi-final with a resolute 3-1 victory against Wimbledon. The tie was in the balance until the closing minutes, when Chelsea's third goal made the win appear deceptively easy.

Having already beaten Newcastle United, also after failing to turn home advantage to account in the original tie, and with Manchester United to face at Villa Park and then either Liverpool or Villa in the final, Chelsea will deserve their success if they win the trophy. "We are certainly doing things the hard way," Glenn Hoddle, their manager, conceded.

A misleading scoreline was not only to be seen at Selhurst Park. Manchester United drew level on points with Newcastle at the top of the FA Carling Premiership by beating Arsenal 1-0, but as Bruce Rioch, the Arsenal manager admitted, the score did scant justice to United's football. "It was a comprehensive 1-0 victory," Rioch said.

Once again, Eric Cantona produced the goal that mattered, his ninth in the past 11 games, almost all of them decisive ones, but few as spectacular as the dipping volley on Wednesday. "He's every player you could wish for," Gary Neville, Cantona's team-mate, enthused. "He can be a target man, he can drop off, he can pass, score goals. Eric can do everything. He is an inspiration.

"Eric is a legend, and the young lads absolutely love him. We look up to him. When he does what he did last night, you realise his importance to us. He is easy to play with — you just give him the ball as often as you can and he'll work wonders with it."

But if Cantona took the eye, Roy Keane was not far behind, and the Neville brothers celebrated their England call-ups with aplomb. "It's a dream come true for us," Gary said. "As youngsters, to come here to watch United play was our dream; then even to get a game for them was our dream, so this is unbelievable. It has been a dramatic rise for us both."

If Philip Neville wins an England cap, they will become the twentieth pair of brothers to play for England, but another record is beckoning. If United win the championship, they will be the first pair of brothers to win championship medals in the same team. "It would be nice — but there are seven games left, and we've got to win those seven," Gary said.

☐ The Scottish Football Association (SFA) has launched an inquiry into a fracas involving several players which took place at the end of the first division promotion encounter between Morton and Dunfermline at Cappielow Park on Tuesday. Bobby Orr, the referee, has filed his report to the SFA on the incident, which followed an injury-time equaliser by Morton. An SFA official confirmed yesterday: "We will put the matter in front of the disciplinary committee in May."

FA CUP

Revised semi-final draw
Liverpool v Aston Villa
(at Old Trafford, March 31, 4.00)
Manchester United v Chelsea
(at Villa Park, March 31, 1.30)

Dynamic new look for Olympics

Denise Lewis, above right, the long jumper and heptathlete, modelling the Adidas kit that the Great Britain team will wear at the Olympic Games in Atlanta this summer when the range was launched at a reception in London yesterday.

Meanwhile, in Sheffield, before the start of the Olympic trials, swimmers were showing off the Speedo Aquablade, above left, that Adidas has agreed to allow them to wear. An official said: "The British Olympic Association has accepted detailed representations from the Amateur Swimming Federation that the Speedo swimwear is the most advanced technological equipment. Therefore not to allow the swimmers to wear it might temporarily affect their performances at the Games."

The athletes' kit is the product of three years' research by Adidas designed to find something to wear in temperatures that are expected to reach 30C. Du'aine Ladejo, the winner of the 400 metres gold medal at the recent European indoor championships, said: "The designers have taken account of our needs and have come up with something that's very comfortable, especially as it takes up the sweat. The design is also very striking, which suits me because I like to make an impact."

The secret of the swimmers' Aquablade lies in its stripes, which are alternately smooth and rough to the touch, the rough side resin-coated. Water passes over the alternate stripes at different speeds, helping to reduce turbulence and drag.

Despite its revolutionary design, the Aquablade leg suit, covering more of the body than any other suit in the modern era, evokes memories of the 1920s and Johnny Weissmuller, when full-body suits were compulsory on grounds of decency.

IN BRIEF

Uefa calls a halt to European Cup move

UEFA, the governing body of European football, decided yesterday to make no significant changes to the format of the European Cup next season, despite calls for the competition to be expanded. An increase in the number of participating teams has not been ruled out for future seasons, however.

Under a plan discussed in February, the competition could be expanded from 24 to 32 teams, allowing nations such as Italy, Spain, England and Germany, to enter an extra team. Yesterday, it was agreed that recent results would be the most relevant criteria for qualification, rather than wealth or prestige.

RAF winged

Hockey: The Royal Navy unexpectedly defeated the Royal Air Force 2-0 in the services championship at Aldershot yesterday after losing 3-0 to the Army on the previous day. The RAF must now record a six-goal margin of victory today against the Army to keep its title.

☐ Simon Hazlitt, who is injured, will be replaced by Soma Singh, of Southgate, in the England side for the international match against India at Milton Keynes on Sunday.

Hamed's targets

Boxing: Naseem Hamed, the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion, from Sheffield, will defend his title against either Daniel Alicea, of Puerto Rico, or Tom Johnson, of the United States, the International Boxing Federation champion, in May or early June. Hamed will then seek the World Boxing Council super-featherweight title held by Azumah Nelson.

Hicks hiccup

Snooker: Andy Hicks, a semi-finalist at the Embassy world championship 12 months ago, was heading for defeat yesterday in the final qualifying round of this year's event, at Telford. He trailed Jimmy Michie, of Pontefract, 7-2 in a best-of-19 frame encounter.

Britons blocked

Tennis: Danny Sapsford and Nick Gould, of Britain, were both beaten in the final qualifying round of the Lipton Championships at Key Biscayne, Florida, yesterday. Sapsford went down 7-5, 6-1 to Grant Stafford, of South Africa, while Gould was beaten 6-2, 6-3 by David Di Lucia, of the United States.

Icemen cometh

Ice hockey: Peter Woods, the Britain coach, has named a 23-man squad for the world championship match against Holland, in Eindhoven, next month. Most have been involved in this season's Olympic qualifying games and, as ever, the squad is dominated by Canadian-born players.

Slalom success

Skiing: Alain Baxter, the 1993 slalom winner and overall men's champion, regained the slalom title yesterday at the British Land national championships in Tignes, France.

Angus triumphs

Real tennis: The former world champion, Howard Angus, overcame John Ward 6-3, 2-6, 6-0 to win the British Land national over-50s championship at Hatfield House.

Hardcastle books Olympic return

By Craig Lord

WHEN Sarah Hardcastle last tasted Olympic success, she was 15. Margaret Thatcher had just swept to a second general election victory on the tide of patriotic fervour that followed the Falklands War and Big Brother ruled on behind the Iron Curtain. The year was 1984.

Yesterday, however, the teenage winner of silver and bronze medals at Los Angeles booked a return trip to the Olympics and the United States to race for Britain at the Atlanta Games in the 400 metres medley.

Describing herself as a "wise old woman", Hardcastle, 26 and married, said: "It means a lot more to me this time. I appreciate how hard it has been to make it."

Her victory, in 4min 51.07sec, at the Olympic trials in Sheffield, was a bold one. Having been led by Lucy Findlay, of Wycombe, for much of a race that comes second in priority to her distance freestyle events, Hardcastle broke down the deficit in the final freestyle leg.

"It hurt so much, I was nearly sick," Hardcastle, who goes to Atlanta as the only Briton with an international title (world short-course 800 metres freestyle) to her name, said. She was one of 12 swimmers to qualify.

Like Hardcastle, Richard Maden, of Rochdale Aquabears, had taken a break from the sport while at university in Leeds. It served him well. After winning the 100 metres breaststroke in 1min 02.76, a personal best, the 23-year-old now carries the weight of a considerable British tradition on his shoulders. Before him in this event have gone David Wilkie, Duncan Goodhew and Adrian Moorhouse.

Nick Gillingham swam the heats yesterday but withdrew from the final, his intention being to swim only the 200 metres breaststroke in Atlanta. In the 200 metres freestyle, Paul Palmer drew Andrew Clayton below 1min 50sec for the first time and both duly qualified.

Expect a metronomic pace from Palmer in his best events (400 metres and 1,500 metres freestyle) over the next two days: he yesterday revealed that he trains with a metronome ticking in his ear beneath his cap. The machine sets the pace that Palmer must produce for an Olympic medal.

Karen Pickering and Susan Rolph will represent Britain in the women's 100 metres freestyle. Pickering's 55.85sec victory yesterday was just 0.06 outside her own British record.

Main's chance of redemption

From John Hennessy
in Edmonton, Canada

STEPHANIE MAIN, the holder of the British title, has the chance to redeem her reputation at the ice skating world championships here today after a wretched performance in the qualifying competition on Monday.

She has an unfavourable draw in the short programme, however, as she follows two crowd-pleasers — Midori Ito, of Japan, the 1989 world champion, and the gifted Tara Lipinski, 13, of the United States — and skates before Lu Chen, of China, the world title-holder.

Judged solely on what happened on Monday, Main is out of her depth in this company, but since then it has been encouraging to see her in practice, producing triple jump after triple with aplomb. Since her basic skating has a textbook quality, there is still no reason she should not do well, if the spirit moves her and her Scottish heart stays strong.

Michelle Kwan, 15, is widely regarded as the favourite, despite her tender years. She is drawn, advantageously, much later, in the company of Irina Slutskaya, of Russia, the European champion, and Surya Bonaly, of France, who was deposed by Slutskaya this season after a five-year reign.

Steven Cousins has a good draw in the final of the men's event. The British champion, thanks to his excellent fifth place in the short programme, is in the final group and skates last but one of the 24 qualifiers. He will, therefore, have the advantage of knowing what he has to do if there is the chance of a medal.

Last of all comes Ilia Kulik, of Russia, the leader after the short programme. By contrast, Neil Wilson, from Belfast, has to skate first, immediately after the warm-up, which may suit him as he will not have a nervous wait for his turn.

On Wednesday night, the pairs title was lost rather than won, since none of the couples in the final group could produce a programme free of error. Marina Eltsova and Andrei Bushkov committed fewer mistakes than their opponents and so provided Russia with yet another world title in this discipline.

They exchanged places with Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Steuer, of Germany, who are building an unenviable reputation of prospering in the short programme only to go to pieces in the final. They started strongly but could not stay the pace.

The bronze medals, surprisingly, went to Jenni Meno and Todd Sand, of the United States, who climbed from fifth place above the other two Russian pairs. Britain can claim some vicarious credit here, since the newly-wed Sands are trained by John Nicks, an expatriate who has now settled in California.

The British champions, Lesley Rogers and Michael Aldred, fared badly. A catalogue of errors, mostly on the part of Rogers, produced a string of poor marks, one as low as 3.8. Somehow, they managed to hold on to sixteenth place.

Lindsay challenged over rebel league

By Christopher Irvine

THE Australian Rugby League (ARL) is bringing a court action today to prevent Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive of the Rugby Football League (RFL) in England, playing any further part in the setting up of a rebel Global League competition.

Lindsay announced the establishment of the Global League in Sydney on Wednesday. It is to be run by the 311 players who signed for the outlawed Super League in Australia and who are refusing to play under the ARL banner.

The ARL is also to seek an injunction to prevent the Global League kicking off next Friday, the same day the European Super League launches. "There is a separate action against Maurice Lindsay to restrain him from any further involvement in this rebel competition," John Quayle, the ARL chief executive, said.

Quayle is hopeful that a ban on the Global League can force the rebel players back to the negotiating table. Without them, the ARL is struggling for a meaningful competition. Seven of the eight Super League clubs, who were ordered back to the ARL by the courts, yesterday forfeited matches in the delayed opening round this weekend. It means that only four of ten games will go ahead.

The new Paris St-Germain club has named 11 France internationals in the side to face Sheffield Eagles in the opening European Super League match on Friday night and, surprisingly, has nominated Pierre Chamorin, the centre, as captain.

Bradford have put Matt Calland on stand-by for their meeting with Leeds tomorrow in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final at Huddersfield because of a doubt over Graeme Bradley, who had an operation on his thumb last week.

Walker gets the point of change

CHRIS WALKER found the new nine-point scoring system to his liking in the Equitable Life Super Series squash finals at The Galleria, Hatfield, yesterday (Colin McQuillan writes). The England captain took just 51 minutes to overturn Rodney Eyles, the world No 2, from Australia, 4-9, 10-8, 2-9, 9-5, 10-8, in the opening match of the round-robin qualifying phase in the Perspex showcourt in the shopping centre's main plaza.

"It was pretty much of a non-stop sprint out there, but that suits my game," said Walker, the world No 7, from Colchester, who alo upset Eyles when they met on an outdoor court last November in the Mahindra Challenge in Bombay.

"Rodney beat me over five games last weekend in the Hungarian semi-finals, in which we played to 15 points, and I had to maintain my go-for-everything tactics that work against him, for much longer. Here I found I could keep the pressure on right to the end of each game. So far the new system seems pretty good."

In the second round today in the Fleet pool, Walker faces Brett Martin, the Australian No 2, who dismissed Mark Cairns, of Oxford, 9-4, 10-8, 10-8 in less than half an hour, later yesterday.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 107 Charlotte 89, Atlanta 98 Vancouver 93, Boston 90 Orlando 112; Miami 102 Detroit 93 Washington 101 San Antonio 112, New York 102 Indiana 99; Milwaukee 97 Sacramento 122; Utah 107 Philadelphia 84; LA Clippers 110 Minnesota 96

BUDWEISER ALL-STAR MATCH: North 153 (Robinson 32, Humphrey 24, Cauthorn, Raitti 23) South 157 (Dorsey 40, Windless 30, Lewis 24)

BOWLS

ADELAIDE: Men's world championships: Triples: Sixth round: Group A: United States bt Guernsey 28-11; Israel bt Namibia 23-9; Kenya bt Singapore 20-14. **Group B:** Argentina drew with Malaysia 14-14, Ireland bt Cook Islands 22-10, Wales bt South Africa 19-12. Swaziland bt Thailand 26-13. Group C: Botswana bt Western Samoa 24-9, Scotland bt Brazil 22-11. Canada bt Zambia 24-19. Group D: England bt Papua New Guinea 25-11, Fiji bt Zimbabwe 27-11; New Zealand bt Hong Kong 18-13; Norfolk Island bt Malawi 25-7. **Seventh round:** Group A: Australia bt United States 24-6; Israel bt Singapore 20-11, Namibia bt Kenya 48-2. **Group positions:** 1, Australia 12 pts, 2, Israel 10, 3, United States 7; 4, Namibia 5, 5, Guernsey 4; equal 6, Singapore and Kenya 2. **Group B:** Thailand bt Argentina 16-11; Wales bt Cook Islands 36-7; South Africa bt Ireland 26-12. Swaziland bt Malaysia 16-15. **Group positions:** Equal 1, South Africa and Ireland 12, 3, Wales 10; 4, Swaziland 8; Equal 5, Malaysia and Argentina 5, 7, Cook Islands 4, 8, Thailand 2. Group C: Scotland bt Botswana 19-8, Jersey drew with Canada 13-13, Brazil bt Western Samoa 19-12. **Group positions:** 1, Scotland 12, 2, Canada 9; 3, Jersey 7 equal 4, Brazil and Botswana 6 5, Zambia 2, 6 Western Samoa 0. **Group D:** New Zealand bt England 22-15; Zimbabwe bt Malawi 39-3, Fiji bt Norfolk Island 20-14. Hong Kong bt Papua New Guinea 43-9. **Group positions:** Equal 1, New Zealand 14, 2 England 12, 3, Fiji 10; equal 4, Hong Kong and Zimbabwe 6; equal 6, Hong Kong and Papua New Guinea 4. 7, Malawi 0

Semi-finals: Scotland v South Africa, Australia v New Zealand.

LLANELLI: Women's indoor home internationals: England bt Ireland 160-83 (England skips first). M Steele lost to M Johnston 21-18, D Hankin bt M Mallon 18-12; J Roylance bt B Cameron 40-6; W Line bt N Montgomery 27-14; M Price bt B Wylie 32-18, N Shaw bt J Mulholland 25-12

CYCLING

TIRRENO-ADRIATICO RACE: Final stage (168km, Grottomare to San Benedetto) 1, J Svorada (Cz) 3hr 53min 13sec, 2, M Tomi (It), 3, F Meloni (It) same time 4, E Zabel (Ger), 5, M Strazzer (It) same time. **Overall:** 1, F Casagrande (It) 34hr 46min 18sec; 2, A Gontchenkov (Ukr) at 23sec, 3, G Pianegonda (It) at 29; 4, M Coppolillo (It) at 32, 5, G Colombo (It) at 51sec.

CRICKET

One-day match

Australia v World XI

MELBOURNE (World XI won toss): Australia beat World XI by five wickets.

WORLD XI

S T Jayasuriya c Healy b Fleming	10
†R S Kaluwitharana c Healy b Reiffel	5
D M Jones c Fleming b M Waugh	103
P A de Silva c Taylor b Fleming	10
*R B Richardson b Gillespie	3
M D Crowe c Fleming b Gillespie	11
J N Rhodes c Slater b Fleming	16
S M Pollock c Gillespie b Lee	29
H H Streak not out	9
P A Strang c S Waugh b M Waugh	2
Extras (lb 3, w 5, nb 4)	12
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	210

Waqar Younis did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-17, 2-17, 3-33, 4-45, 5-81, 6-114, 7-172, 8-208, 9-210

BOWLING: Reiffel 10-2-29-1; Fleming 8-2-32-3; Lee 9-0-35-1, Gillespie 8-1-23-2, Warne 10-0-57-0, Bevan 3-0-16-0; M Waugh 2-0-15-2

AUSTRALIA

M J Slater retired hurt	14
*M A Taylor c Richardson b Strang	78
M G Bevan c Kaluwitharana b Streak	3
S R Waugh c Streak b Strang	15
M E Waugh not out	56
S Lee c Jayasuriya b de Silva	16
†I A Healy c Strang b de Silva	10
P R Reiffel not out	6
Extras (b 2, lb 3, w 6)	13
Total (5 wkts, 49 overs)	211

S K Warne, J Gillespie and D W Fleming did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-55, 2-100, 3-140, 4-174, 5-198.

BOWLING: Waqar 8-0-36-0; Streak 8-0-23-1, Pollock 7-0-35-0; Strang 10-0-37-2; Jayasuriya 10-0-45-0, de Silva 8-0-30-2

Man-of-the-match: D M Jones.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-finals, second leg: Ajax 1 Borussia Dortmund 0 (Ajax win 3-0 on agg). Juventus 2 Real Madrid (Spain) 0 (Juventus won 2-1 on agg); Panathinaikos 3 Legia Warsaw 0 (Panathinaikos win 3-0 on agg); Spartak Moscow 2 Nantes 2 (Nantes win 4-2 on agg)

FA CUP: Sixth round replays: Liverpool 3 Leeds 0, Wimbledon 1 Chelsea 3.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Bolton 2 Tottenham Hotspur 3; Manchester United 1 Arsenal 0; Southampton 0 Sheffield Wednesday 1

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham 1 West Bromwich 1, Port Vale 1 Norwich 0

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Albion 2 East Stirling 2

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Bradford P A v Congleton, Farsley Celtic v Lincoln United. President's Cup: Second round: Boston 0 Worksop 2.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: VS Rugby 0 Salisbury 1.

ICIS LEAGUE: Second division: Collier Row 5 Chalfont St Peter 2.

BANK'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Brierley Hill 1 Lye 2.

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Cirencester 3 Tuffley 0; Didcot 0 Burnham 3, Lambourn Sports 1 Kintbury 0; Shortwood 1 Highworth 2.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: St Neots 2 Kempston 0.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Crediton 1 Torrington 0. Postponed: Brislington v Mangotsfield.

JEWSON COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Sudbury Town Res 2 Clacton 2; Sudbury Wanderers 1 Harwich and Parkeston 3

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper Town 0 Arnold 0; Hallam 0 North Ferriby 0

LEAGUE OF WALES: Cemaes Bay 3 Flint Town 0; Conwy United 1 Caernarfon 1; Cwmbran 1 Ebbw Vale 3; Ton Pentre 0 Llanelli 0.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Brighton 3 Bristol Rovers 2; Bristol City 1 Chelsea 0, Charlton Athletic 0 Arsenal 3, Crystal Palace 4 Swindon Town 1, Ipswich 4 Southampton 0; Luton Town 3 Oxford Utd 2; Norwich City 0 Wimbledon 4 Second division: Birmingham City 1 Bath City 2, Bournemouth 1 Cardiff City 1, Newport AFC 1 Plymouth Argyle 3, Cheltenham Town 0 Torquay United 2

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Notts County 0 Blackburn Rovers 0; Sheffield Utd 1 Wolverhampton Wanderers 0. Second division: Bradford 1 Rotherham Utd 2; Burnley 0 Leicester City 4, York City 0 Sunderland 2. Third division: Bury 0 Chesterfield 0, Carlisle United 2 Shrewsbury Town 0; Doncaster Rovers 6 Rochdale 3, Lincoln City 2 Wigan Athletic 2; Scarborough 2 Stockport County 3, Walsall 2 Darlington 0; Wrexham 2 Scunthorpe Utd 2.

DUTCH LEAGUE: Groningen 2 Twente Enschede 2; Roda JC Kerkrade 3 Utrecht 1

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Snickers under-19 Trophy: Franklin College, Humberside 5 High Pavement College, Nottingham 4 (aet), Fareham College 4 Swindon College 3 (aet), Ridge Danyers College, Greater Manchester 2 Blackburn College, Lancs 1. English Goodyear under-16 Trophy: Lanmeed, Oxon 3 St Joseph's Wilts 0; George Stevenson, Northumberland 1 Myers Grove, South Yorkshire 0. English Reed Trophy: Hampshire 4 Oxfordshire 2. Southern Counties Cup: Semi-final: St Albans 0 Newham 2

GOLF

AROEIRA: Portuguese Open: Early first-round scores (GB and Ire unless stated): 63: K Eriksson (Swe) 65: W Riley (Aus) 66: R Willison. 67: D Borrego (Sp), J Haeggman (Swe), J Coceres (Arg), D Silva (Por), P Hausgrud (Nor). 68: R Rafferty, M McLean, M Gronberg (Swe), M Besanceney (Fr), O Karlsson (Swe).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Montreal 3 Hartford 2; New Jersey 1 Boston 2; Toronto 3 Detroit 4 (OT), Chicago 2 Calgary 3; Dallas 2 St Louis 1, Winnipeg 1 San Jose 7; Los Angeles 2 Colorado 5

BRITISH LEAGUE: Championship play-offs: Group B: Newcastle 4 Humberside 10. Promotion/relegation: Manchester 11 Swindon 3

ICE SKATING

EDMONTON, Canada: World championships: Men (after short programme). 1, I Kulik (Russ) 0.5 factored pts; 2, T Eldredge (US) 1.0; 3, A Urmanov (Russ) 1.5; 4, R Galindo (US) 2.0; 5, S Cousins (GB) 2.5; 22, N Wilson (GB) 11.0. Pairs: Final positions: 1, M Eltsova and A Bushkov (Russ) 2.0; 2, M Woetzel and I Steur (Ger) 2.5; 3, J Meno and T Sand (US) 5.5; 16, L Rogers and M Aldred (GB) 24.0

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Public schools championship: Junior Colts: Malvern College (T Bomford and J Thompstone) bt Marlborough College (M Chetwood and D Goodman-Smith) 15-3, 15-2, 15-10; Rugby (N Wilkinson and H Reed-Herbert) bt Clifton College (J Aylwin and N Theveathasan) 15-8 15-11, 8-15, 7-15, 15-6, Harrow (R Wilcox and O Craven) bt Charterhouse (R Grindy and C Fortune) 15-9, 15-4, 15-0, Radley College (S Hickson and M Silcock) bt Cheltenham College (B Hughes and E Mathers) 15-5, 15-12, 15-10. Colts: Cheltenham College (S Fairbairn and S Cowley) bt Malvern College (J Baker and R Neale) 15-3, 15-9, 15-0; Charterhouse (A Hollingsworth and H Nash) bt Marlborough College (A Bird and M Bickford) 15-0, 15-7, 15-0; Wellington (N Kinder and J Alexander) bt Radley College (O Broom and C van der Gucht) 15-11, 4-15, 17-14, 15-6

REAL TENNIS

HATFIELD HOUSE: British Land National Over-50s championship: Semi-finals: H Angus bt R Knight, 6-2, 6-3; J Ward bt P Danby 6-0, 6-2

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Surrey 53 Kent 17.

PRETORIA: Super 12: Northern Transvaal 59 Otago 28.

ROSSLYN PARK NATIONAL SCHOOLS SEVENS: Open tournament: Sixth round: Bassaleg 22 St Olave's 10, Hymers 0 Wimbledon Coll 31; John Fisher 12 Hampton 31; Sllcoates 10 Hawthorn 28; Gunnersbury 0 Stonyhurst 43; Millfield 19 Warwick 26; Pocklington 12 Sedbergh 33; Glantaf 24 Mount St Marys 19. Quarter-finals: Bassaleg 5 Stonyhurst 24; Hampton 19 Sedbergh 29, Wimbledon 29 Warwick 19, Hawthorn 7 Glantaf 17; Semi-finals: Stonyhurst 21 Wimbledon 15; Sedbergh 5 Glantaf 31. Final: Stonyhurst 29 Glantaf 10

SPEEDWAY

CHALLENGE MATCH: Cradley Heath and Stoke 43 Wolverhampton 50

SNOOOKER

TELFORD INTERNATIONAL CENTRE: Embassy world championship: Final qualifying round (England unless stated): Latest positions: J Ferguson leads G Greene 5-4, M Clarke leads M King 6-3, D O'Kane (NZ) leads P Davies (Wales) 5-4; J Michie leads A Hicks 7-2, N Terry leads D Reynolds 7-2; M Price leads I McCulloch 6-3, D Henry (Scot) leads A Knowles 7-2; R Lawler leads D Taylor (N Ire) 5-3

TENNIS

ST PETERSBURG, Russia: Men's tournament: Second round: D Prinosil (Ger) bt J Apell (Swe) 6-4, 6-4; F Dewulf (Bel) bt N Marques (Por) 6-4, 6-3

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohemians v Derry (7.45), St Patrick's Ath v Drogheda (7.45).

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Trafford v Maine Road.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Shoreham v Peacehaven and Telscombe

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Northumberland v Humberside (at Morpeth, 2.0) English Schools Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-finals: Franklin College, Humberside v Archbishop Grimshaw, W Midlands (2.0); Hills Road College, Cambridge v Palmers College, Essex (2.0). English Schools Goodyear Under-16 Trophy: Quarter-finals: George Stephenson, Northumberland v Wolferton, Humberside (4.0), Darland HS, Clwyd v St Francis Xavier, Merseyside (4.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

FRIENDLY MATCHES: Keighley v Halifax (7.30), Oldham v Hunslet (8.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle v Leicester (8.0); Leopards v Worthing (8.0)

MOTOR SPORT: Vauxhall Rally of Wales

SNOOKER: Embassy world championship qualifying (Telford)

SPEEDWAY: Challenge: Belle Vue v Bradford (7.30).

SQUASH: Equitable Life Super Series play-off finals (Hatfield).

SWIMMING: British Olympic trials (Sheffield)

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Rivals left to fret over Eriksson's positive approach

FROM MEL WEBB IN LISBON

THE golfers of the PGA European Tour have been visited by all manner of impediments this season, and yesterday another variety of meteorological nastiness left players kicking their heels frustratedly as it caused a long delay before the Portuguese Open could get under way at Aroeira, ten miles south of Lisbon.

There was rain in Singapore, South Africa and Dubai, and the Catalan Open was reduced to 36 holes by gales. This time it was a heavy sea fret that crept in from the nearby Atlantic at dawn, which meant a delay of 2hr 10min and an incomplete first round. All that is needed to complete the set is fire, snow and a plague of locusts.

There was no fire yesterday, but there was heat of another kind as Klas Eriksson, the young Swede, lit the blue touch-paper and scorched round the course in 63, eight under par, to finish his day leading in the clubhouse by two shots. There were still dozens of players on the course as dusk fell, and if the fog clears off and minds its own business, the first round will be completed this morning.

Like most of his fellow competitors, Eriksson, 24, who leads Wayne Riley by two shots, and Russell Claydon and Ricky Willison by three, found the soft, slow and spike-ridden greens a constant challenge to the assembly of a good score. However, a sequence of nine birdies in 11 holes from the 5th cut in the bud any small complaint that he might have had.

Riley's view on the putting surfaces was typical. "They look like they've just run the Grand National on them," he said. A slight exaggeration, perhaps, but you knew what he meant.

To be fair, the greenkeepers at Aroeira have been working under the most adverse conditions in the past few months; the amount of rain that has fallen here since December would have them positively salivating at Yorkshire Water. It did not alter the fact, though, that things were not easy ... unless your name happened to be Klas Eriksson, that is. He dropped only one shot, on the short 4th, when he missed the green off the tee and failed to get up and down.

Results 39

He might have been rattled, he might have slid towards the sort of diffident golf that has seen him miss the cut in every one of the four tournaments in which he has played this season, but that dropped shot might have been the catalyst he needed to set off the violent reaction that followed.

Eriksson birdied the 5th with a pitching wedge to three feet, birdied the 6th with a 12-foot putt, picked up another shot on the 8th with an eight-iron to ten feet and a single putt, and reached the turn with another birdie from a foot at the 9th.

The next three holes were also brought to heel with aggressively accurate golf. At the 10th, a par-five of 538 yards, he needed a putt of only 12 inches, and he was ten inches closer than that at the 11th. He had to think about things a little more on the 12th, where he had to hole from ten feet for a birdie, and really messed things up at the 13th, where he got a mere par four.

Eriksson came into this tournament after being on the receiving end of a lecture from Rolf, his father, who preached the gospel of positive thinking. "He told me that if I got to two under, I *must* immediately look for three, then four, and so on," Eriksson said. "I tried to today." Birdies eight and nine, at the 14th and 15th, would seem to indicate that Eriksson Sr had made his point, with bells on.

Swedes winning mind games

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX

AT ANY given golf tournament, in any given week, in whatever part of the world, there is one certainty: if there is a Swede playing, there will be a Swede on the leaderboard. Yesterday, in the first round of the Standard Register Ping event here at Moon Valley, the dutiful player was Carin Hj Koch, who was three under par after ten holes, a shot behind Barb Mucha, of the United States, who started with an eagle three at the 10th.

Koch, *née* Hjalmarsson (hence the hiccup in the middle of her name), was one of the dew sweepers, alongside her compatriot, Catrin Nilsmark-Wickberg (marriage explains the double-barrelled tendency). Nilsmark, who holed the winning putt in the Solheim Cup at Dalmahoy, started with a birdie three but went out in 37, one over par, after a double-bogey six at the 9th.

Koch, 25, is in her second year on the US tour. In 1995 she earned a respectable $129,313 (about £85,000) and was 48th on the money-list. "She's swinging well and has a good attitude," a seasoned observer said this week.

A good attitude is not something the Swedes acquire by accident. The Swedish Golf Federation's national team programme, designed to make Sweden one of the best golf nations in the world, does not confine itself to technical matters. The mind and the whole being are involved, too. The main goal, according to documented philosophy, "is to give our players a chance to educate themselves in all aspects needed to succeed in the game of life and the game of golf". The first named of these areas is "attitude".

Alison Nicholas, an English Solheim Cup stalwart, went out in 38, one over par, after starting at the 10th, but Kathryn Marshall, of Scotland, was two under, having gone out in 35.

DES JENSON

Allen, of Cambridge, summons intense concentration during the pistol shooting discipline of the Varsity modern pentathlon match

Oumpa's sixth discipline scores high

It is 3pm in a hall in Tonbridge, Kent. A Wizard-of-Oz of an invigilator has said: "Ladies, uncase your pistols." He then tells them to load, then shoot, then stop. Four young ear-muffed women, two each from Oxford and Cambridge, are now awaiting further orders, sitting with their heads in their hands like mourners who have arrived early for a funeral service.

They use air pistols, fire from a distance of ten metres, one shot per 40 seconds at a target with an inner and outer bull worth ten points; two exterior circles within the central black ring scoring nine and eight; the less accurate the shot, the lower the score. Perfection would be 200 from 20 shots. A score of 172 yields 1,000 modern pentathlon points.

It is shooting day at the Varsity modern pentathlon match. Cambridge are tipped to win again; Oxford remain hopeful, "quietly optimistic about our chances" is the official version. In the dining room, where we had the sort of lunch about which one feels neutral and praises standards of hygiene, Andersen Consulting, sponsor of the event, displays a range of silverware, champagne bottles and commemorative plaques to ensure that no one will leave empty-handed.

In the classical Olympic Games, the pentathlon consisted of discus, javelin, high jump, long jump and wrestling. It was the climax of the games. The winner ranked as the victor ludorum. Aristotle, in his *Rhetorics*, wrote: "The most perfect sportsmen are the pentathletes; in their bodies, strength and speed are combined in beautiful harmony."

Today's complete pentathlete runs and swims; shoots and fences and rides. In each discipline, excellence is marked with a score of 1,000 points, in pistol shooting for achieving 172. Twelve points are added to the magic thousand for each extra score or deducted for underperformance.

In running, the men execute four laps of a 1,000-metre cross-country course; a time of 7min 40sec is worth 1,000 points. Five pentathlon marks are added or subtracted per completed second within or outside this time. Swimming's 1,000 requires eight 25-metre lengths in 2min 54sec, with four points per second on or off. In fencing, each competitor fights each other competitor — 27 sudden-death épée bouts and 19 hits is the aim; 41 points per hit are added or subtracted.

FREUD ON FRIDAY

The riding is over a show course, on an unfamiliar horse, after a 15-minute warm-up in which one can take no more than four practice jumps. A clear round within optimum time scores 1,100; all transgressions lose points. Olympic pentathlons started at the Games of 1912, at the insistence of Baron de Coubertin, who wanted sculling rather than shooting; sculling presented organisation difficulties.

At Stockholm, there were 22 competitors, three from Great Britain and, of the ten Swedes who competed, six finished in the first seven. Until a German victory in 1936, Swedish athletes dominated the sport. Then came the Hungarian era, followed by Pavel Lednev with two golds, two silvers and three bronzes between 1968 and 1980.

Britain's only individual success was a bronze in Mexico by the then Sergeant Jim Fox, though we won the team gold medal in Montreal, 1976: Fox, Nightingale and Parker. But British women won every world event in the late Seventies and early Eighties, and continue to dominate pentathleticism on the distaff side.

Julia Allen, 24, comes from Abingdon, in Oxfordshire, is a sixth and final-year veterinary student at Cambridge and probably our finest pentathlete. (Sadly, women's pentathlon is not an Olympic sport). She swam from the age of seven, joined her local pony club at around that time, is a natural athlete, a brilliant shot and "rubbish at fencing".

Unlike the decathlon, in which each discipline demands athletic brilliance, technique and stamina, the modern pentathlete is a multi-faceted beast who must be half asleep and rigid during the shoot; wide awake and cunning for the épée, a natural runner who spends a lot of time in the swimming pool and is an adequate horseman with the substantial luck to be allocated an empathetic horse.

Ed Egan, Oxford final-year medic, was bred for this event by his father Michael, is one of our Olympic hopes, has achieved a score of 5,603, which is outstanding. In Atlanta, all five disciplines are contested in one day. At Tonbridge, the competition spans Thursday, Friday, Saturday, is altogether less frenetic, more fun ... as it should be when half the participants bear the letters OUMPA on their tracksuits and have the crown of Oxford shaved from the backs of their heads.

There is also constant conjecture on whether it is to be Saturday night's post-pentathlon banquet with *Beef Wellington* on the menu, or the late-night cross-germination of ideas between the men and women which will comprise the sixth discipline, and how is the scoring to be other than subjective?

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer North **Love all** **Rubber bridge**

North:
♠7632
♥AJ4
♦QJ3
♣AQ3

West:
♠K
♥K972
♦1094
♣J10765

East:
♠J109
♥8653
♦8652
♣82

South:
♠AQ854
♥Q10
♦AK7
♣K94

W	N	E	S
—	1 NT (12-14)	Pass	3 S
Pass	4 C (1)	Pass	4 D (2)
Pass	4 H (3)	Pass	6 S
All Pass			

Contract: Six Spades by South Lead: jack of clubs

(1) North does not know from the Three Spade bid whether South is interested in a slam or merely looking for the best game. In case South has a slam in mind, North cue-bids his ace of clubs, which also shows a maximum hand with good spade support. (2) Showing the ace of diamonds and confirming slam interest. (3) A heart control, just what South wanted to hear.

The theme of this hand has come up in a previous Refresher. South's main problem is how to play the trump suit. The standard safety play of this suit combination is to cash the ace and later lead up to the queen. Thus, declarer does not lose to the singleton king offside. However, the trouble with this play is that it guarantees that there will be at least one loser in the suit. This does not matter if the heart finesse is right, but if the heart finesse is wrong, declarer's only chance is to play the trump suit for no loser and the way to do this is to take a first-round finesse.

The solution is not hard to spot. Rather than draw trumps immediately, declarer should first take a heart finesse. On this occasion, it will win, so declarer can afford to make the safety play in trumps. Had the queen of hearts lost to the king, declarer would have had to take a first-round trump finesse, thus still making his contract when East had Kx of trumps.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Anti-computer strategy

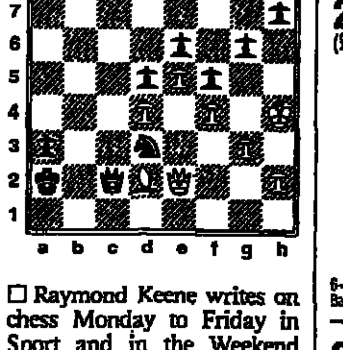
While world champion Garry Kasparov was overcoming the resistance of IBM's Deep Blue mainframe computer in Philadelphia, Nigel Short also took on the world micro-computer champion in a two-game match in Ecuador. Short took a leaf from Kasparov's book and applied slow manoeuvring tactics which ultimately led to the machine's strangulation in a long endgame. The key to computer-hostile strategy is to avoid open positions leading to sharp tactics at which the computers excel.

White: MChess Pro
Black: Nigel Short
Guayaquil, February 1995

French Defence

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	Nd2	Nf6
4	e5	Nfd7
5	f4	c5
6	c3	Nc6
7	Ndf3	f5
8	Bd3	cxd4
9	cxd4	Nb6
10	Ne2	Be7
11	a3	a5
12	0-0	0-0
13	Be3	a4
14	Rc1	Bd7
15	Bf2	Na5
16	Nd2	Bc6
17	Qc2	Qd7
18	Rfe1	Bb5
19	Bxb5	Qxb5
20	Nc3	Qd7
21	Re3	Nbc4
22	Nxc4	Nxc4
23	Rh3	b5
24	Qe2	g6
25	Na2	Rfc8
26	Rcc3	Na5
27	Qe1	Rxc3
28	Rxc3	Nc4
29	Rc2	Bd8
30	Nb4	Ba5
31	Bh4	Rc8
32	Kh1	Qa7
33	Bf2	Rc7
34	Kg1	Bb6
35	Qd1	Na5
36	Rxc7	Qxc7
37	g3	Qc4
38	Kh1	Kf7
39	Kg1	Ke7
40	Kg2	Kd7
41	Kg1	Qb3
42	Qe2	Qc4
43	Qd1	Nb3
44	Nc2	Ba5
45	Be3	b4
46	axb4	Bxb4
47	Nxb4	Qxb4
48	Kg2	Na5
49	Kh1	Nc4
50	Bc1	Kc6
51	Qe2	Nb6
52	Qe3	Qc4
53	Kg2	Qc2+
54	Kh3	Nc4
55	Qe1	Kb5
56	Qf1	Kb4
57	Qe1+	Kb3
58	Qf1	Ka2
59	Qe1	Nxb2
60	Bd2	Nd3
61	Qe2	a3
62	Kh4	White resigns

Diagram of final position



☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ABNEY
a. A denial
b. A Suffolk signpost
c. An angular instrument

GONGORA
a. The Portuguese Inquisition
b. An orchid
c. Stuttering

DOGAN
a. To ditch
b. A Roman Catholic
c. A portable bed

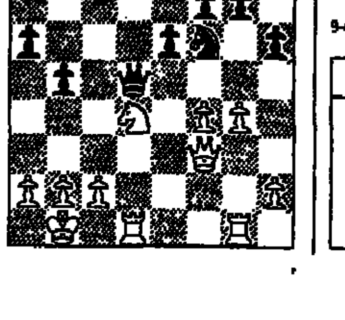
CANOT
a. Sugar cane
b. A refusal
c. A big canoe

Answers on page 42

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Malishauskas - Shirov, Tallinn 1996. Alexei Shirov, one of the world's most dangerous tactical players, here finds himself on the receiving end of a combination. How did White force immediate resignation?



Solution, page 42

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Doncaster

Going: good to soft

1.35 (1m 4f) 1, Haya Ya Kefaah (R Ffrench, 33-1); 2, Outstayed Welcome (20-1); 3, Golden Arrow (25-1); 4, Almuhtaram (8-1). Cuango 6-1 fav. 21 ran. 1¼l, 6l. N Babbage. Tote: £72.70; £12.60, £4.10, £8.50, £2.10. DF: £734.30. Trio: not won (pool of £1,045.38 carried forward to 3.40 at Doncaster today). CSF: £548.83. Tricast: £14,087.14.

2.05 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, Manful (Miss A Elsey, 20-1); 2, Hazard A Guess (8-1); 3, Princess Danielle (20-1); 4, Gallardini (33-1). Calder King 13-2 jt-fav. 27 ran. NR: Sea God. 3½l, 4l. C W Elsey. Tote: £29.60; £5.50, £2.80, £7.20, £12.80. DF: £208.80. Trio: £1,660.20 (part won; pool of £1,660.29 carried forward to 3.40 at Doncaster today). CSF: £180.77. Tricast: £3,063.86.

2.35 (5f) 1, Indian Spark (T Sprake, 100-30); 2, Joint Venture (5-1); 3, Muchea (100-30). Fredrik The Fierce 5-2 fav. 7 ran. 4l, 3½l. W G M Turner. Tote: £3.70; £2.20, £2.00. DF: £21.40. CSF: £20.98.

3.05 (1m) 1, First Island (M Hills, 9-2); 2, Wijara (6-1); 3, Nwaamis (11-10 fav). 7 ran. 1½l, 2½l. G Wragg. Tote: £4.40; £2.40, £2.90. DF: £9.90. CSF: £28.61.

3.40 (5f) 1, Little Noggins (J Stack, 16-1); 2, Lady Caroline Lamb (20-1); 3, Passion For Life (4-1 fav); 4, Secret Voucher (16-1). 18 ran. ½l, nk. C Dwyer. Tote: £18.00; £2.70, £4.30, £1.50, £3.90. DF: £148.60. Trio: £536.10. CSF: £278.01. Tricast: £1,443.57.

4.10 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, Jackson Hill (Pat Eddery, 6-4 fav; Thunderer's nap); 2, Deadline Time (12-1); 3, Dancing Cavalier (16-1); 4, Docklands Limo (14-1). 18 ran. NR: Roman Gold. Hd, 1¾l. R Charlton. Tote: £2.50; £1.30, £2.60, £3.70, £4.00. DF: £15.30. Trio: £161.80. CSF: £24.87. Tricast: £249.54.

4.40 (1m) 1, Inalyabi (W Carson, 5-1); 2, Polinesso (2-1 fav); 3, Courting Danger (20-1). 15 ran. NR: Full Throttle. 2l, 7l. J Dunlop. Tote: £5.60; £1.80, £2.00, £5.20. DF: £9.10. Trio: £102.90. CSF: £17.47.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £59,279.90 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £7,481.10. Quadpot: £78.60.

Plumpton

Going: soft

2.25 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Jojo (J R Kavanagh, 11-8 fav); 2, Chieftain's Crown (5-1); 3, Just-Mana-Mou (13-8). 5 ran. NR: Easy Breezy, Nautical George, Script. 5l, 21l. D Grissell. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £1.20. DF: £3.70. CSF: £7.49.

2.55 (2m 5f ch) 1, Black Church (D O'Sullivan, 6-1); 2, Mirage Dancer (8-1); 3, Rhoman Fun (11-4). Nathir 4-5 fav. 5 ran. NR: Little Tom, Oh So Handy, Raglan Road. 2l, ¾l. R Rowe. Tote: £9.20; £2.60, £2.00. DF: £11.90. CSF: £39.87.

3.25 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Fane Park (G Hogan, 6-1); 2, Lady Poly (20-1); 3, Father's Joy (16-1). Neverold 6-4 fav. 8 ran. NR: Classic Image, Nidomi, Take A Flyer. Nk, dist. L Wells. Tote: £8.70; £2.10, £6.10, £3.60. DF: £116.20. Trio: £96.90 (part won; pool of £13.51 carried forward to 3.40 at Doncaster today). CSF: £88.45. Tricast: £1,640.56. Father's Joy finished second, but after a stewards' inquiry was placed third.

4.00 (2m ch) 1, Winspit (J R Kavanagh, 2-1 fav); 2, Cobb Gate (9-2); 3, Smart In Sable (3-1). 6 ran. NR: Star Of David. 1½l, 17l. R Alner. Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £2.80. DF: £4.20. CSF: £10.48.

4.30 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Golden Opal (G Supple, 6-1); 2, Miss Fern (4-6 fav). 4 ran. Only two finished. Nk. R Buckler. Tote: £6.60. DF: £5.00. CSF: £10.63.

5.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Pyramis Prince (Mr M Gingell, 9-4); 2, Il Bambino (13-8 fav); 3, Macedonas (9-1). 5 ran. NR: Captain Coe, Mariners Cove, Wiltoski, Zip Your Lip. 6l, 24l. J Whyte. Tote: £3.00; £2.00, £1.40. DF: £3.60. Trio: £12.50. CSF: £8.08.

Placepot: £1,898.60. Quadpot: £762.60.

Wincanton

Going: soft

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Headwind (P Hide, 3-1); 2, Secret Spring (11-4 fav); 3, Penrose Lad (12-1). 17 ran. NR: Modaljaj. 9l, 4l. J Gifford. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £2.00, £3.60. DF: £5.80. Trio: £34.40. CSF: £10.95.

2.45 (2m 5f ch) 1, Trying Again (R Dunwoody, 8-11 fav); 2, Capenwray (7-2); 3, River Gala (33-1). 9 ran. NR: Our Wizzer, Rose Garden, Supreme Music. Dist, 25l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.10, £2.10. DF: £3.10. Trio: £15.20. CSF: £3.86.

3.15 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Full Of Fire (Mr M Armytage, 5-1); 2, Beaurepaire (7-4 fav); 3, Real Progress (4-1). 6 ran. NR: Desert Run, Duhallow Lodge, Synderborough Lad. 2l, dist. K Bailey. Tote: £5.30; £2.00, £1.40. DF: £4.10. Trio: £3.40. CSF: £13.35. Tricast: £30.80.

3.50 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Cavina (L Wyer, 2-1 fav); 2, Young Tess (8-1); 3, Glengarrif Girl (3-1). 16 ran. NR: Jaunty June, Lady Ness. 3l, 20l. N Graham. Tote: £2.90; £1.50, £1.90, £1.50. DF: £11.00. Trio: £30.40. CSF: £17.48.

4.20 (2m 5f ch) 1, Oaklands Word (Mr J Jukes, 6-1); 2, King's Treasure (5-1); 3, Bright Burns (9-1). Still In Business 9-4 fav. 13 ran. NR: Drewitts Dancer, Paid Elation. 4l, 13l. E Rhodes. Tote: £8.10; £1.90, £1.90, £2.90. DF: £31.00. Trio: £83.40. CSF: £38.03.

4.50 (2m hdle) 1, Josilina (A Thornton, 25-1); 2, Manolete (7-2 jt-fav); 3, Teen Jay (10-1). Saint Ciel 7-2 jt-fav. 8 ran. 1l, 10l. M McCormack. Tote: £34.10; £6.10, £1.40, £2.70. DF: £48.90. CSF: £104.69. Tricast: £876.42.

5.20 (2m flat) 1, Aerion (J Osborne, 4-1); 2, Wentworth (50-1); 3, Warner For Players (3-1 fav). 16 ran. NR: Sierra Nevada, All Sewn Up. 5l, 5l. O Sherwood. Tote: £6.20; £2.30, £6.60, £1.20. DF: £239.90. Trio: not won (pool of £402.24 carried forward to 3.40 at Doncaster today). CSF: £173.93.

Placepot: £37.00. Quadpot: £11.10.

THE TIMES
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Commentary

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HEREFORD

THUNDERER

2.10 Majboor Yafooz. 2.40 Knockaverry. 3.10 Ground Nut. 3.45 World Express. 4.15 Three Philosophers. 4.45 Cherokee Chief. 5.15 Johnny-K.

GOING: SOFT SIS

2.10 BLACKBIRD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,752: 2m 3f 110yd) (13 runners)

1	0-P0	MAMNOON 18 (V) W Clay 5-11-10	Guy Lewis (3)
2	2645	MAJBOOR YAFOOZ 15 J Bosley 6-11-6	M Bosley
3	0-0P	KILLUSTY CASTLE 20 N Henderson 6-10-6	J R Kavanagh
4	2040	CASSIO'S BOY 15 (S) R Eckley 5-10-3	D Gallagher
5	540-	BRIDIE'S PRIDE 466 G Ham 5-10-3	D Fortt (5)
6	-020	SEBASTOPOL 11 (G) P Murphy 7-10-3	R Farrant
7	-000	STARLIGHT FOOL 22 K Bailey 7-10-3	A Thornton
8	6/P	OUR ARNOLD 22 I Brown 9-10-0	Mr A Brown (7)
9	0P-2	STEEL GEM 9 G Yardley 7-10-0	D Leahy
10	P/P	POLLY LEACH 36 B Millman 6-10-0	D Salter (5)
11	0-6F	PARISIAN 2 J Bennett 11-10-0	L Harvey
12	P60U	VISION OF LIGHT 140 H Oliver 6-10-0	Jacqui Oliver
13	000	BOLD CHARLIE 16 S Mellor 4-10-0	Chris Webb (5)

6-4 Steel Gem, 5-2 Majboor Yafooz, 9-2 Vision Of Light, 10-1 Bridie's Pride, 16-1 Killusty Castle, 20-1 Cassio's Boy, 25-1 others.

2.40 CHAFFINCH NOVICES CHASE
(£3,074: 3m 1f 110yd) (13)

1	0031	KNOCKAVERRY 16 (G,S) M Wilkinson 8-11-5	P Crowley (7)
2	0B0P	AN SUCHAILL LIATH 9 G Ham 7-11-4	S Burrough
3	-560	ARCHER 16 (B,S) N Walker 8-11-4	J A McCarthy
4	3323	BALLY CLOVER 13 (G,S) Miss V Williams 9-11-4	R Farrant
5	-3FR	BALLYDOUGAN 9 (B) P Nicholls 8-11-4	Guy Lewis (3)
6	-PPF	CORACO 10 (B,S) R Phillips 9-11-4	C Maude
7	U3	JOE BEGLEY 18 R Lee 7-11-4	G Hogan (3)
8	0F6	MAJORS LEGACY 24 T Forster 7-11-4	A Thornton
9		POLITICAL MEMBER G Giddings 13-11-4	I Lawrence
10	5-46	SENNA BLUE 16 R Pugh 11-11-4	V Slattery
11	P	SLANEY FRANCE 65 D Lloyd 8-11-4	Mr E Williams (7)
12	P036	WOODLANDS POWER 15 (B) P Pritchard 8-11-4	L Harvey
13	-PPP	STRATTON FLYER 23 H Howe 6-10-13	D Leahy

6-4 Knockaverry, 2-1 Bally Clover, 7-1 Majors Legacy, 8-1 Archer, 10-1 Ballydougan, 16-1 Woodlands Power, 25-1 Senna Blue, 33-1 others

3.10 WREN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,766: 2m 3f 110yd) (8)

1	UF04	GROUND NUT 15 (S) R Buckler 6-12-0	G Supple (7)
2	0004	SUPREME MASTER 13 (S) Miss C Johnsey 6-10-13	L Harvey
3	-313	HABASHA 78 (C,BF,G,S) M Pipe 6-10-12	J Lower
4	-000	TWICE THE GROOM 126 (S) R Lee 6-10-12	G Hogan (3)
5	2003	BANANA COVE 14 (V,F) W Clay 5-10-5	Guy Lewis (3)
6	-056	RAGGERTY 13 (V,S) Miss K Whitehouse 6-10-0	W Humphreys
7	-000	RAIN-N-SUN 16 (G,S) J L Harris 10-10-0	D Gallagher
8	-4P0	ROSGILL 35 (F,S) Mrs M Jones 10-10-0	D Byrne

9-4 Ground Nut, 5-2 Habasha, 5-1 Banana Cove, Supreme Master, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 14 winners from 28 runners, 50.0%; O Sherwood, 6 from 17, 35.3%; M Pipe, 31 from 101, 30.7%; N Twiston-Davies, 23 from 75, 30.7%; D Nicholson, 11 from 42, 26.2%; R Buckler, 7 from 28, 25.0%.

JOCKEYS: J Lower, 6 winners from 20 rides, 30.0%; J R Kavanagh, 11 winners from 54 rides, 20.4%; T Dascombe, 3 from 19, 15.8%; M Bosley, 5 from 40, 12.5%; D Leahy, 5 from 41, 12.2%; R Farrant, 5 from 43, 11.6%.

3.45 CURLEW NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,710: 2m 1f) (13)

1	3-61	WORLD EXPRESS 10 (B,S) B Millman 6-11-9	D Salter (5)
2	0-0	AEOLIAN 23 R Allsop 5-11-2	A Thornton
3	30-P	BEYOND THE STARS 59 (B) G Smith 5-11-2	Mr B Potts (7)
4	3P	HARDY WEATHER 3 (BF) D Gandolfo 7-11-2	D Leahy
5		IRISH WILDCARD H Oliver 8-11-2	V Slattery
6	P/P4	KUTAN 7 Mrs B Waring 6-11-2	E Byrne
7	430P	MAHLER 37 N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2	C Maude
8		PRUSSIA 148F W Clay 5-11-2	Guy Lewis (3)
9	6556	SAN DIEGO CHARGER 20 A Barrow 5-11-2	S Burrough
10	0-P0	SHARP PENN 18 H Oliver 7-11-2	Jacqui Oliver
11	P-P	SMART ACT 64 I Brown 7-11-2	Mr A Brown (7)
12		SARUK 1424F G McCourt 7-10-11	D Fortt (5)
13	00	TANGO MAN 24 R Price 4-10-8	D Gallagher

5-2 World Express, 3-1 Hardy Weather, 7-1 Saruk, Prussia, 8-1 Irish Wildcard, Mahler, San Diego Charger, 14-1 others.

4.15 ROBIN HANDICAP CHASE (£2,892: 2m 3f) (5)

1	1U1F	THREE PHILOSOPHERS 24 (G,S) T Forster 7-12-0	A Thornton
2	4213	AEDEAN 13 (B,S) G Enright 7-10-6	J R Kavanagh
3	4U0U	LUCKY AGAIN 9 (F,G) C Popham 9-10-5	T Dascombe (5)
4	3U11	ALLO GEORGE 9 (G,S) A Newcombe 10-10-5 (6ex)	D Gallagher
5	0343	CHARTERFORHARDWARE 14 (S) W Clay 10-10-0	Guy Lewis (3)

2-1 Three Philosophers, 9-4 Allo George, 3-1 Charterforhardware, 9-2 Aedean, 12-1 Lucky Again.

4.45 THRUSH STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div I: £1,420: 2m 1f) (14)

1	14	KENTFORD TINA 108 (G) J Mullins 5-11-6	S Curran (3)
2	5	ADMIRAL BRUNY 37 N Gaselee 5-11-4	F Cooper (7)
3	4	CARRY THE CARD 35 S Christian 5-11-4	D Gallagher
4		CHEROKEE CHIEF O Sherwood 5-11-4	J A McCarthy
5	0	DINGLE WOOD 41 S Griffiths 6-11-4	Mr J Jukes
6		JASON'S PET C Cowley 5-11-4	Mr M Smith
7		SCOUNDREL K Bailey 5-11-4	A Thornton
8		THE SECRET GREY D McCain 5-11-4	D McCain
9	0/0	CARLINGFORD LASS 24 F Jordan 6-10-13	J Lodder
10		GANPATI N Twiston-Davies 5-10-13	C Maude
11	00	BID FOR TOOLS 21 A Newcombe 4-10-10	J R Kavanagh
12	00	NOT GUILTY 20 H Oliver 4-10-10	Jacqui Oliver
13	00	BAY FAIR 27 J Bosley 4-10-5	Paul Thompson (7)
14		EMERALD DOVE R Price 4-10-5	G Hogan (3)

3-1 Kentford Tina, 7-2 Cherokee Chief, 4-1 Ganpati, 9-2 Carry The Card, 7-1 Scoundrel, 10-1 Emerald Dove, 12-1 Admiral Bruny, 16-1 others.

5.15 THRUSH STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div II: £1,410: 2m 1f) (14)

1	000	BANKS OF THE BRIDE 7 Mrs B Waring 6-11-4	E Byrne
2		CHESTERS NAP M Pipe 5-11-4	J Lower
3	5	HILLS GAMBLE 18 P Bevan 6-11-4	W Worthington
4	2	JOHNNY-K 35 D Nicholson 5-11-4	R Massey (5)
5		LUMO K Bridgwater 5-11-4	R Farrant
6		OATS ALOFT T Forster 5-11-4	S Wynne
7	0	PERRIK LARK 9 R Lee 6-11-4	G Hogan (3)
8	00	ROWDY YATES 20 B Rothwell 6-11-4	Mr S Astaire
9	6	FRED FUGGLES 34 C Jackson 4-10-10	G F Ryan (5)
10		GREENHILL SURPRISE A Chamberlain 4-10-10	D Leahy
11		WELSH SILK O Gandolfo 4-10-10	Sophie Mitchell (5)
12		YONDER STAR G Smith 4-10-10	Mr M Daly (7)
13	0	BEL-DE-MOOR 34 M Muggeridge 4-10-5	M Molloy (7)
14	0	LOCH NA KEAL 36 C Nash 4-10-5	J R Kavanagh

5-2 Johnny-K, 7-2 Chesters Nap, 4-1 Oats Aloft, 5-1 Hills Gamble, 8-1 Fred Fuggles, 12-1 Welsh Silk, 20-1 Bel-De-Moor, 25-1 others

Blinkered first time

DONCASTER: 3.40 Petoskin. HEREFORD: 2.40 Woodlands Power, 3.10 Banana Cove, Raggerty. NEWBURY: 1.50 Quarry House

Doncaster executive proposes radical change for traditional fixture

April date sought for Lincoln meeting

By Richard Evans, Racing Journalist of the Year

THE Lincoln meeting, which spluttered into life at a chilly and mist-shrouded Doncaster yesterday, could soon be staged in April after the Grand National at Aintree.

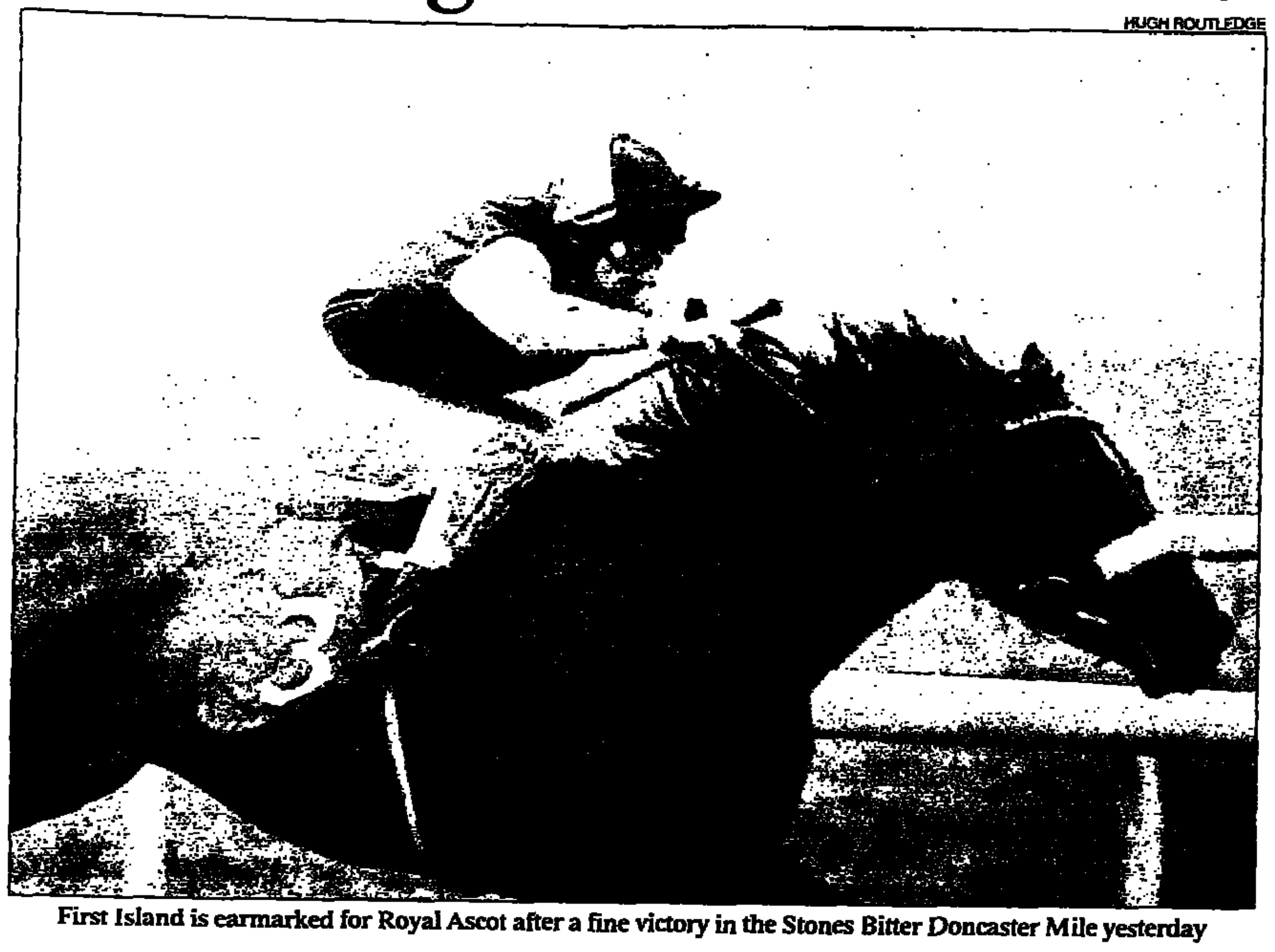
The traditional starting point for the new turf Flat season is increasingly feeling the effects of being squeezed between National Hunt's two popular Festivals — Cheltenham and Aintree — and Doncaster racecourse is set to propose a fixture shake-up to the British Horseracing Board (BHB).

John Sanderson, chief executive at Doncaster and a BHB member, said: "There is nothing magic about this week in March. It is just tradition and there has to be a case for moving the Lincoln."

On an afternoon which Sanderson accurately described as being more like a jumping day at Catterick in December, he admitted: "It is not a great start to the British Flat racing season."

"I would like to think the real Flat racing season continued to start here with the Lincoln at Doncaster. If it makes it more attractive promotionally and for racing generally to move it to the other side of the National, what is wrong with that?"

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



First Island is earmarked for Royal Ascot after a fine victory in the Stones Bitter Doncaster Mile yesterday

There can be no doubt the development of all-weather Flat racing during the winter months and the increased popularity of Cheltenham, in particular, and Aintree have affected the Lincoln meeting. It no longer holds such an important place in the affections of racing people.

Doncaster's proposal is likely to form part of a package aimed at having more racing at the racecourse which stages the oldest classic. The home of the St Leger at present stages just 27 days racing — including only seven National Hunt fixtures. A scheme has already been drawn up to widen the jumps course and Sanderson would like to stage between 40 and 50 racing days.

"Doncaster and Newmarket provide the best two surfaces in European racing and we have the capacity to use this to provide consistently reasonable ground for Flat racing throughout the summer. By the same token, it is a great shame not to put on more jump racing because there is plenty of space."

While the more conservative elements within racing are likely to rail against such radical change, I hope the BHB will give Doncaster's proposals a fair hearing. The Lincoln meeting is likely to face even greater pressure in future years when it will clash with the Dubai World Cup and almost saturation coverage from Channel 4.

"We will have to grasp the nettle sooner or later and the debate that has gone on this year about the contraction in time between Cheltenham and the Grand National meeting offers the opportunity to see where the Lincoln should be slotted into racing's life," Sanderson added.

If the racing authorities are not prepared to agree lock, stock and barrel with Doncaster's blueprint, they may wish to consider the idea of a mixed meeting at Doncaster in March. Flat and jumps come together at Sandown when the Whitbread Gold Cup and Thresher Classic Trial are staged on the same day in April and the meeting has proved immensely popular down the years.

Despite yesterday's wintry conditions, First Island produced a sparkling turn of foot to win the Stones Bitter Doncaster Mile and it was no surprise to hear his trainer, Geoff Wragg, talk in terms of the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot as a likely target.

Held up at the rear of the seven-strong field, Michael Hills eased the 9-2 shot nearer the lead coming down the straight before streaking to the front at the furlong pole and winning by a length and a half from Wijara, the long-time leader. Nwaamis, the disappointing favourite, finished 2½ lengths away in third.

Hills reported: "He took me there so easily. Once I showed him an opening he took off. He's a lot stronger and different mentally to last year."

The son of Dominion carries the colours of Mollers Racing, who will be represented in the Dubai World Cup next Wednesday by Pentire.

Wragg said: "Pentire was given a little bit of a lead by First Island before he went out to Dubai a couple of months ago, and he has been working nicely since arriving there."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: *TO THE ROOF*
(4.10 Doncaster)
Next best: Noyan
(3.05 Doncaster)

Versatile Noyan fits the bill

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.35: The John Gosden-trained Domak Amaam, who will be ridden by Frankie Dettori, is likely to be a popular order judged on his good second to the well-regarded Pivotal at Newcastle last term. The Dominion colt should relish the return to seven furlongs and is the form choice.

Mansab is another who will suited by the longer trip, but it could be worth taking a chance with **Sorbie Tower.** He showed plenty of promise on his second start last term, "winning" the race on the far side at Warwick to finish second. Gay Kelleway rates this useful-looking son of Soviet Lad.

3.05: Upper Mount Clair sprung a 33-1 shock when taking this race last year and Clive Brittain's stayer has a sound chance of following up, having won twice over two miles at Southwell this year. However, this early-season stamina test tends to go to a lightly-weighted four or five-year-old who has been running in decent hurdle company.

Noyan, who won twice on the Flat last year for Lennie Lungo before moving to David Nicholls, fits the bill perfectly. He has been running in decent handicap company over hurdles and was not disgraced behind Trainglot at Cheltenham. En Vacances progressed last term and should be thereabouts.

3.40: Reg Akehurst won this with Sharp Prospect last year and it will be no surprise to see the former Dick Hern-trained Mihriz run well on his debut for the new yard. The Machiavellian gelding is fairly treated on his early-season form last spring.

The consistent Aeroking deserves a race but preference is for **Mister Fire Eyes**, a winner at this meeting 12 months ago, who has shown markedly improved form on the all-weather during the winter. His latest start at Wolverhampton three weeks ago, after a three-month absence, should have put Clive Brittain's runner spot on for this competitive handicap.

4.10: I am keen on the chances of **To The Roof** for three reasons. Despite being a maiden, the form of the sprinter from the in-form Peter Harris yard is arguably the best on offer and he had a plum draw from stall 22. Also, the Thatching gelding has been hobdayed since finishing a good second at Chepstow last season so further improvement can be anticipated. Bolshoi, who won first time out last year, looks nicely weighted and can be given a chance along with Sycamore Lodge.

Richard Evans

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

1.30 Contravene
2.05 Three Hills
2.35 Domak Amaam
3.05 **EN VACANCES** (nap)
3.40 Bagshot
4.10 Highborn

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 **DOMAK AMAAM** (nap). 3.05 Mizyan. 3.40 Mister Fire Eyes.

GOING. GOOD TO SOFT — DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING — SIS

1.30 CYSTIC FIBROSIS MAIDEN SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,560: 5f) (7 runners)

101	(1)	NATTIE (Duckhaven Stud) A Newcombe 9-0	L Dettori	–
102	(3)	CONTRAVENE (W Burns) J Berry 8-9	J Carroll	–
103	(7)	DON'T FORGET SHOKA (Mrs V Goodman) J Moore 8-9	J F Egan	–
104	(6)	HELLO DOLLY (K Ivory) K Ivory 8-9	C Scally (7)	–
105	(5)	HIT OR MISS (B Lowrey) M Channon 8-9	T Quinn	–
106	(2)	RAHONA (S Moloney) B Rothwell 8-9	M Fenton	–
107	(4)	SKYERS FLYER (Mrs J Carney) R Thompson 8-9	T Williams	–

BETTING: 7-4 Hit Or Miss, 9-4 Contravene, 5-2 Hello Dolly, 12-1 Nattie, 14-1 Rahona, 20-1 Don't Forget Shoka, 25-1 Skyers Flyer

1995: PENNY PARKES 8-9 J Carroll (4-1) J Berry 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

CONTRAVENE (Apr 15, 3,200gns) Fourth foal, by Contract Law. HELLO DOLLY (Apr 14, 4,100gns) Half-sister by Mujadil to useful 1m handicapper Embankment. HIT OR MISS (Mar 21, 8,800gns) Second foal, by Be My Chief; dam very useful juvenile. SKYERS FLYER (Apr 12; 900gns) Second foal, by Magical Wonder, dam sprint winner. No selection

2.05 P & J FOODS MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O. £3,785: 1m 2f 60yd) (11 runners)

201	(10)	63025-	AL'S ALIBI 137 (Sussex Stud) W Muir 9-0	Jean-Pierre Lopez	90
202	(2)		ARNHEM (W Gredley) C Brittain 9-0	B Doyle	–
203	(9)	0-552	CRYSTAL FAST 20 (L Norris) P Kelleway 9-0	L Dettori	84
204	(5)		LEDGENDRY LINE (Home & Away Partners) Mrs M Reveley 9-0	K Darley	–
205	(6)		POLY MY SON (Sheet & Roll Convertors) M Channon 9-0	R Hughes	–
206	(4)		SCANDATOR (Patient Few) P Harris 9-0	G Hind	–
207	(1)		SUMMER SPELL (E & W Robins) R Charlton 9-0	S Sanders	–
208	(11)	53-	THREE HILLS 162 (K Abdulla) B Hills 9-0	Pat Eddery	[illegible]
209	(8)		ZIMMY (R Langley) T Clement 9-0	J Quinn	–
210	(3)	2436-	CLASSIC LOVER 156 (Classic Bloodstock) R Harris 8-9	A Mackay	91
211	(7)	040-	SISTER KIT 164 (C Davies) B Palling 8-9	T Sprake	85

BETTING: 7-4 Three Hills, 5-1 Summer Spell, 7-1 Arnhem, Classic Lover 8-1 Ledgendry Line, Al's Alibi, 10-1 Crystal Fast 14-1 others

1995. SEA VICTOR 9-0 Pat Eddery (4-1) J Gosden 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

AL'S ALIBI short-head 2nd of 14 to Ageeb in maiden auction at Folkestone (7f good) on penultimate start. CRYSTAL FAST ½l 2nd of 7 to Rowlandsons Charm in claimer at Lingfield (Standard, 1m). THREE HILLS 1½l and neck 3rd of 14 to Silver Dome in maiden at Newmarket (1m, good to firm). CLASSIC LOVER neck and 2l 3rd of 13 to House of Riches in maiden at Redcar (1m 1f, good to firm).
Selection: THREE HILLS

2.35 GLOBAL SHOPFITTERS MAIDEN STAKES — C4
(3-Y-O: £4,078: 7f) (16 runners)

301	(16)		ALPINE PANTHER (P Savill) W Jarvis 9-0	K Darley	–
302	(3)		AMBASSADOR (M Al Maktoum) B Hills 9-0	M Hills	–
303	(7)	005425-	ANGUS MCCOATUP 101 (D Allen) B McMahon 9-0	T Quinn	85
304	(9)	6-	ARTERXERXES 140 (P Lowe & Partners) M Heaton-Ellis 9-0	A Clark	84
305	(14)		DEPICTION (Matthews Racing) R Guest 9-0	W Woods	–
306	(2)	32-	DOMAK AMAAM 144 (A Al Maktoum) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	[illegible]
307	(5)	43-	MANSAB 144 (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 9-0	W Carson	90
308	(13)	0054-	MILETRIAN CITY 180 (Miletrian Plc) J Berry 9-0	J Carroll	81
309	(1)		MOCK TRIAL (P Leonard) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	K Fallon	–
310	(8)	52425-4	OCEAN STREAM 7 (BF) (M Gleeson) J Eyre 9-0	O McKeown	94
311	(4)	6-	ONLY 95 (R Hannon) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill (5)	–
312	(11)	02-	SORBIE TOWER 171 (P Q) Miss G Kelleway 9-0	R Cochrane	88
313	(10)	25-	SUNLEY SECURE 179 (R Sunley Tice) M Channon 9-0	R Hughes	95
314	(12)		WELLIRAN (K Knox) A Foster 9-0	T Sprake	–
315	(15)	0-	SANDICLIFFE 165 (Sandicliffe Motors) B Hills 8-9	J D Smith (5)	–
316	(6)	40-	SISTAR ACT 224 (T Corby) M Channon 8-9	Candy Morris	76

BETTING: 2-1 Domak Amaam, 3-1 Mansab, 7-1 Ambassador, 8-1 Ocean Stream, 12-1 Angus McCoatup, Sorbie Tower, 14-1 others.

1995: TORRENTIAL 9-0 L Dettori (7-4 fav) J Gosden 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

DOMAK AMAAM 2½l 2nd of 12 to Pivotal in maiden at Newcastle (6f, good to firm) with MANSAB 5l 3rd. SORBIE TOWER 2l 2nd of 14 to Second Time Lucky in maiden auction at Warwick (6f, good to soft). SUNLEY SECURE 3½l 2nd of 9 to Lomberto in maiden at Sandown (7f, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: DOMAK AMAAM

3.05 CYSTIC FIBROSIS RESEARCH CUP HANDICAP — C4
(£5,120: 2m 2f) (21 runners)

401	(17)	403341-	MEANT TO BE 11J (F,S) (Lady Mumford) Lady Herries 6-9-13	J Reid	91
402	(7)	316008-	BLAZE AWAY 20J (F,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 5-9-13	L Dettori	93
403	(10)	210/00-0	EVEZIO RUFO 23 (S) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 4-9-13	T G McLaughlin	–
404	(1)	111310-	SALAMAN 180 (D,F,G) (Lady Cohen) J Dunlop 4-9-10	W Carson	90
405	(15)	1510-11	OLD PROVENCE 37 (C,F,G) (T Dawson) R Harris 6-9-9	A Mackay	90
406	(14)	06/00/	SATIN LOVER 804J (C,F,G) (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-8	A Culhane	–
407	(19)	125516-	TORCH VERT 22J (F,G) (P Green) N Walker 4-9-5	J Stack (3)	97
408	(11)	030034-	MONDRAGON 231 (F,G) (D Young) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-4	K Darley	88
409	(4)	140000-	SHADIRWAN 69J (F,G) (C Batt) R Akehurst 5-9-4	T Quinn	93
410	(21)	353210-	LALINDI 76J (F,G,S) (White Horse Racing) D Elsworth 5-9-2	Pat Eddery	89
411	(5)	023101-	EN VACANCES 155 (S) (Lambourn Valley Racing) A Foster 4-9-1	T Sprake	[illegible]
412	(18)	240405-	SEA FREEDOM 20J (Miss B Swire) G Balding 5-8-12	S Drowne (3)	94
413	(13)	44461-5	ELBURG 38 (F) (Mrs A Gamble) R Hoad 6-8-12	K Fallon	80
414	(16)	216-543	MIZYAN 20J (F,G) (J Bianchi) J Banks 8-8-10	R Cochrane	90
415	(9)	425-211	UPPER MOUNT CLAIR 35 (CD,F,G) (C Brittain) C Brittain 6-8-5	B Doyle	94
416	(8)	45-0342	HARD LOVE 13 (G) (P Hemingway) J Eyre 4-8-4	R Lappin	94
417	(2)	02-3216	SHAKIYR 30 (G) (L & R Roadlines) R Hollinshead 5-8-4	F Lynch (5)	97
418	(3)	03141-4	GENTLEMAN SID 15J (D,F) (Miss J Collison) P Murphy 6-7-12	N Adams	88
419	(6)	00/114-4	NOYAN 9J (BF,F,G) (C McGhie) D Nicholls 6-7-11	L Charnock	88
420	(12)	16-2222	COLERIDGE 27 (B,CD,F,G,S) (P Sheehan) J Sheehan 8-7-10	J Quinn	98
421	(20)	600-	TIP THE DOVE 342 (C Price) R Price 7-7-10	N Carlisle	–

BETTING: 5-1 Blaze Away, 6-1 Upper Mount Clair 7-1 En Vacances, Torch Vert, 8-1 Meant To Be Elburg, 10-1 Coleridge, 12-1 others.

1995: UPPER MOUNT CLAIR 5-8-7 B Doyle (33-1) C Brittain 14 ran

FORM FOCUS

MEANT TO BE beat Greycoat Boy short-head in 12-runner handicap at Ascot (2m, soft). SALAMAN beat Non Vintage 3½l in a 4-runner conditions race at Pontefract (2m 2f, good to firm) on penultimate start. OLD PROVENCE beat Kymin 3½l in 8-runner claimer at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 7f). LALINDI beat Soopama neck in handicap at Warwick (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. EN VACANCES beat Istabraq neck in handicap at Newbury (2m, soft). UPPER MOUNT CLAIR beat Yougo 2½l in handicap at Southwell (AW, 2m)
COLERIDGE 2½l 2nd of 10 to Jaraab in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 2m).
Selection: UPPER MOUNT CLAIR

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 . B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy) Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.40 WILLIAM HILL SPRING MILE HANDICAP — C4
(£15,290: 1m str) (24 runners)

501	(22)	4/50050-	NEW CENTURY 150 (F) (W Kelly) D Nicholls 4-9-10	W Ryan	85
502	(2)	222360-	COOL EDGE 146 (F) (H H Chan) M Tompkins 5-9-9	P Robinson	86
503	(11)	001310-	NIGHT WINK 146 (D,F,G) (Mrs D Benjamin) D Nicholls 4-9-9	Alex Greaves	88
504	(4)	01400-5	SMART GUEST 18J (D,G,S) (P Murphy) J A Harris 4-9-9	Dale Gibson	93
505	(12)	20-1144	CELESTIAL CHOIR 16 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs C Sykes) J Eyre 6-9-9	R Lappin	90
506	(21)	305006-	SOTOBOY 162 (C,F) (Mrs M Hollis) P Harris 4-9-9	G Hind	91
507	(8)	0/20606-	HAM N'EGGS 6J (D,F) (MHOG Racing) M Hammond 5-9-9	K Darley	87
508	(16)	405062-	AEROKING 162 (G) (PBT Group) G Harwood 5-9-8	A Clark	93
509	(9)	25/4461-	SAMWAR 94 (G) (Maygain Ltd) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-7	R Hughes	83
510	(24)	2/312-64	NEUWEST 20 (D,F) (P Green) N Walker 4-9-7	J Stack (3)	85
511	(10)	50040-0	PETOSKIN 20 (V,S)(Losers Group) J Pearce 4-9-7	G Bardwell	80
512	(13)	10/4256-	MIHRIZ 280 (F) (Normandy Developments) R Akehurst 4-9-7	T Quinn	87
513	(23)	200401-	EUROLINK THE REBEL 32J (B,C,D,F) (M Dennis) M Hammond 4-9-6	M Hills	88
514	(14)	50-5005	COUNTRY LOVER 33 (V,D,F,G) (G Brunton) Lord Huntingdon 5-9-6	D Harrison	90
515	(18)	403633-	BAGSHOT 112 (F,S) (G Tee) R Hannon 5-9-5	Pat Eddery	84
516	(17)	02021-2	MISTER FIRE EYES 23 (B,C,F,G,S) (C Olley) C Brittain 4-9-4	B Doyle	[illegible]
517	(19)	2140-36	BARREL OF HOPE 58 (B,G,S) (P Watson) J Eyre 4-9-3	J Fortune	86
518	(5)	124000-	KNOBBLEENEEZE 160 (V,C,D,F,G,S) M Channon 6-9-2	P P Murphy (5)	89
519	(15)	210/001-	BEST OF ALL 141 (D,F,S) (R Aird) J Berry 4-9-2	J Carroll	83
520	(20)	2040/16-	TULU 27J (D,G,S) (M Houlston) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-2	K Fallon	90
521	(7)	2/30-	DANCES WITH HOOVES 335 (V Squeglia) D Ffrench Davis 4-9-1	J Weaver	88
522	(1)	000025-	LYNTON LAD 27J (B,G) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 4-9-1	J Reid	94
523	(3)	00-3222	GOLDEN POUND 42 (BF) (F Kalla) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-1	R Cochrane	88
524	(6)	1-00232	DUKE VALENTINO 8 (D,BF,G) (J Bigg) R Hollinshead 4-9-0	L Dettori	93

BETTING: 11-2 Mihriz, 8-1 Mister Fire Eyes, Samwar, 10-1 Bagshot, 14-1 Celestial Choir, Duke Valentino, Sotoboy, 16-1 Country Lover, Night Wink, Tulu, 20-1 Aeroking, Cool Edge, Eurolink The Rebel, 25-1 others.

1995: SHARP PROSPECT 5-9-2 T Quinn (8-1) R Akehurst 23 ran

FORM FOCUS

COOL EDGE efforts last season include 1l 3rd of 30 to Sarrah in handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with KNOBBLEENEEZE (4lb better off) 9l 16th and MISTER FIRE EYES (3lb better off) 10l 30th. NIGHT WINK beat Pine Ridge Lad 5l in 14-runner handicap at Redcar (1m, firm) on penultimate start.
CELESTIAL CHOIR about 6¾l 4th of 11 to River Keen in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 4f).
AEROKING 1½l 2nd of 20 to Tarawa in handicap at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) with SOTOBOY (6lb better off) about 5¾l 6th.
PORTEND beat Total Stranger by 1l in 8-runner handicap at Leicester (5f, soft) on penultimate start.
SAMWAR beat Errant 6l in 9-runner maiden at Lingfield (AW, 7f)
MIHRIZ best effort last season, 1¾l 2nd of 9 to Hardy Dancer in handicap at Kempton (1m 1f, good to firm). EUROLINK THE REBEL beat Lunar Mission 6l in 15-runner claimer here (1m 2f 60yd, good to firm).
SIR JOEY one of best efforts last season to beat Ansellman by head in 6-runner handicap at Chepstow (5f, good to firm).
BAGSHOT about ¾l 3rd of 16 to Rood Music in handicap at Southwell (AW, 1m).
MISTER FIRE EYES ½l 2nd of 9 to Maple Bay in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f 79yd).
BARREL OF HOPE best effort last season, beat LYNTON LAD (2lb better off) 1¼l in handicap at Newbury (7f, good to soft). DANCES WITH HOOVES about 1l 3rd of 10 to Orsay in maiden at Leicester (1m, good) on penultimate start. GOLDEN POUND head 2nd of 11 to Anastina in maiden at Southwell (AW, 7f)
Selection: MISTER FIRE EYES (nap)

4.10 HOLROYD CONSTRUCTION GROUP HANDICAP — C4
(£4,898: 6f) (22 runners)

601	(6)	340/030-	WIGBERTO 127 (G) (Sunpak Potatoes) J Eyre 4-10-0	O Pears (3)	96
602	(10)	011060-	LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 167 (C,F,G,S) M Heaton-Ellis 8-9-11	A Clark	94
603	(18)	23130/0-	FOR THE PRESENT 306 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Hazell) T Barron 6-9-11	J Fortune	90
604	(7)	621044-	THE HAPPY FOX 153 (F,G) (G Whitaker) B McMahon 4-9-8	L Newton (5)	92
605	(11)	560600-	CASTLEREA LAD 210 (CD,F,G) (Mrs T Graham) R Hollinshead 7-9-7	L Dettori	90
606	(4)	500321-	HIGHBORN 143 (D,F,G) (Yorkshire Racing Club) P Felgate 7-9-7	K Darley	96
607	(3)	0/0440-0	ROCKVILLE PIKE 73 (S) (H Ness) S Dow 4-9-6	T Quinn	87
608	(16)	000135-	FANTASY RACING 149 (D,F,G,S) (Aldridge Racing) M Channon 4-9-6	R Hughes	94
609	(13)	331155-	PORTEND 328 (C,D,G,S) (D Bowring) S Bowring 4-9-6	C Teague (5)	88
610	(5)	120003-	TILER 143 (D,F,S) (Mrs C Robinson) M Johnston 4-9-5	J Weaver	96
611	(8)	505000-	SIR JOEY 157 (D,F,S)(Mrs A Sims) P Murphy 7-9-4	S Drowne (3)	95
612	(1)	313140-	BRECONGILL LAD 160 (D,F,G) (Three Horse Shoes) Miss S Hall 4-9-1	B Doyle	92
613	(15)	006436	TAFAHHUS 38 (D,F) (R Newton) M Polglase 4-9-1	W Ryan	96
614	(17)	410-001	ANZIO 50 (B,D,F,G,S) (T Staunton) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-0	Pat Eddery	98
615	(21)	500400-	MISTER JOLSON 157 (D,F,G,S) (B Froome) R Hodges 7-8-10	R Cochrane	[illegible]
616	(20)	102400-	BOLSHOI 279 (F) (Mrs D Brown) J Berry 4-8-8	J Carroll	86
617	(14)	4060-60	SAMSOLOM 20 (CD,F,G) (C Hammond) P Howling 8-8-8	Paul Eddery	94
618	(2)	411350-	ANONYM 182 (C,F) (Wetherby Racing Bureau) D Nicholls 4-8-8	Alex Greaves	90
619	(9)	050654-	MONTSERRAT 146 (V,S) (Mrs A Yearley) L Cottrell 4-8-8	M Fenton	90
620	(12)	040030-	REMAADI SUN 104 (T Barker) M Usher 4-8-7	R Street	–
621	(19)	262245-	SYCAMORE LODGE 216 (Mrs J Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-5	K Fallon	91
622	(22)	023382-	TO THE ROOF 164 (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 4-8-5	G Hind	96

BETTING: 8-1 Portend, Tiler, Sir Joey, Anzio, 10-1 Castlerea Lad, Montserrat, Sycamore Lodge, 14-1 Mister Jolson, 16-1 Lord High Admiral, Rockville Pike, Fantasy Racing, 20-1 To The Roof, 25-1 others

1995: CASTLEREA LAD 6-9-4 W Ryan (14-1) R Hollinshead 22 ran

FORM FOCUS

THE HAPPY FOX about 1¾l 4th of 10 to Croft Pool in handicap here (5f, good to firm). HIGHBORN beat Seigneurial head in 11-runner rated stakes at Redcar (6f, firm) with TILER (5lb better off) 1½l 3rd and ANZIO (13lb better off) 2l 4th. FANTASY RACING two short-heads 3rd of 20 to Bajan Rose in handicap at Chepstow (6f, soft) on penultimate start with ANZIO (1lb better off) 1½l 3rd, MONTSERRAT (5lb better off) ½l 5th, SIR JOEY (4lb better off) 7½l 10th and MISTER JOLSON (8lb better off) 6½l 14th. PORTEND completed double, beat Total Stranger 1l in 8-runner handicap at Leicester (5f, soft) on penultimate start. BRECONGILL LAD beat Midnight Break 1¼l in 6-runner handicap at Thirsk (5f, good to firm). August 1995 ANONYM 2¾l 3rd of 10 to Sailan in handicap at Leicester (7f, good), August 1995. MONTSERRAT 4½l 4th of 6 to Elshabiba in conditions race at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). TO THE ROOF 1l 2nd of 19 to Tether Osmacion in handicap at Chepstow (5f, good to soft)
Selection: FANTASY RACING

Pennekamp misses Cup

PENNEKAMP, last year's 2,000 Guineas winner, was withdrawn from the Dubai World Cup yesterday because of injury. Pentire and Needle Gun represent Britain in the first running of the world's richest race at Nad Al Sheba in five days' time.

DONCASTER SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Gosden, 30 winners from 134 runners, 22.4%; R Charlton, 6 from 32, 18.8%; B Hills, 21 from 119, 17.6%; J Dunlop, 16 from 104, 15.4%; M Channon, 10 from 66, 15.2%; J Berry, 15 from 109, 13.8%

JOCKEYS: M Hills, 24 winners from 136 rides, 17 6%; Pat Eddery, 30 from 180, 16 7%; L Dettori, 27 from 164, 16.5%; K Darley, 31 from 211, 14.7%; R Hughes, 4 from 28, 14 3%; W Carson, 26 from 192, 13.5%.

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HEREFORD 104 204
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NEWBURY

THUNDERER

1.50 Penncaler. 2.25 Southampton. 2.55 Flying Gunner. 3.25 St Mellion Fairway. 4.00 Pashto. 4.35 Hamilton Silk.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE): SOFT (HURDLES) — SIS

1.50 WANTAGE NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,225. 3m 110yd) (18 runners)

1	-F16	ACT OF FAITH 34 (S) N Gaselee 6-11-12	C Llewellyn	98
2	2313	HARDING 10 (C,S) S Mellor 5-11-12	N Mann	91
3	151	KING GIRSEACH 10 (S) K Bailey 7-11-12	T J Murphy (3)	[illegible]
4	6100	PURBECK CAVALIER 20 (S) Mrs J Retter 7-11-12	A P McCoy	83
5	R122	WHAT'S YOUR STORY 36 (S) D Nicholson 7-11-12	W Marston	89
6	3323	BULLENS BAY 21 S Sherwood 7-11-4	S Curran (3)	96
7	6000	FRENCH BUCK 20 (B,G) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4	T Jenks	59
8	245	KENDAL CAVALIER 14 G Balding 6-11-4	B Fenton (3)	90
9	-303	PENNCALER 20 P Hobbs 6-11-4	R Dunwoody	97
10	R-	PRINCE CANUTE 363P Mrs R Henderson 6-11-4	Mr J Culloty (5)	–
11	04P0	QUARRY HOUSE 16 (B) D Chappell 8-11-4	G Bradley	77
12	800-	RAINBOW RUNNER 363 Mrs P Duffield 5-11-4	P Holley	–
13	4000	SPACEAGE GOLD 22 J Old 7-11-4	G Upton	64
14	000	SUPREME SPIRIT 35 Mrs D Haine 7-11-4	J F Titley	71
15		WELCOME CALL O Sherwood 6-11-4	J Osborne	–
16	-000	GEMMA'S WAGER 10 M Campion 6-10-13	J Railton	–
17	05U	JOY FOR LIFE 15 R Stronge 5-10-13	R Stronge	–
18	U50	BLAZING MIRACLE 9 Mrs R Henderson 4-10-3	Mrs R Henderson	–

11-4 What's Your Story, 4-1 King Girseach, 6-1 Act Of Faith, 8-1 Welcome Call, Harding, Penncaler, 12-1 Bullens Bay 16-1 others.

2.25 FARINGDON HANDICAP CHASE
(£4,349 2m 1f) (4)

1	54-5	YOUNG SNUGFIT 97 (CD,F,G,S) O Sherwood 12-12-0	J Osborne	[illegible]
2	-134	WEE RIVER 23 (D,F,G,S) G Moore 7-11-6	J Callaghan	92
3	0U45	JAMES THE FIRST 13 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 8-10-8	P Hide	97
4	3153	SOUTHAMPTON 11 (BF,F,G,S) G Balding 6-10-2	A P McCoy	98

15-8 Young Snugfit 5-2 Wee River, 3-1 Southampton, 4-1 James The First

COURSE SPECIALISTS

NEWBURY: Trainers: O Sherwood, 19 winners from 77 runners, 24.7%, D Nicholson, 27 from 116, 23 3%, N Henderson, 25 from 116, 21 6%, M Pipe, 18 from 88, 20.5%, Mrs J Pitman, 12 from 71, 16.9%; S Sherwood, 7 from 42, 16 7% Jockeys, J Osborne, 42 winners from 166 rides, 25 3%, R Dunwoody, 39 from 155 25 2%, W Marston, 9 from 39 23 1%, P Holley, 15 from 77, 19.5%, J Titley, 3 from 18, 16 7%, C Llewellyn, 11 from 102 10 8%

KELSO: Trainers: Mrs J Storey, 4 winners from 8 runners, 50.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 43 from 137, 31 4%, T Tate, 4 from 14, 28.6%, Mrs J Goodfellow 14 from 50, 28 0%, Miss L Russell, 3 from 11, 27.3%. Jockeys: P Niven, 50 winners from 136 rides, 36 8%, P Carberry, 4 from 15, 26 7%, A Dobbin, 26 from 121, 21 5%, M Moloney, 15 from 72, 20 8%; B Storey, 25 from 162 15 4%

2.55 SABIN DU LOIR MAIDEN HURDLE
(£3,891: 2m 5f) (21)

1	04	ASHMEAD RAMBLER 18 P Hobbs 6-11-9	G Tormey (3)	–
2	343/	CONEY ROAD 749 C Brooks 7-11-9	G Bradley	–
3	0	DAJRAAN 23 N Twiston-Davies 7-11-9	C Llewellyn	–
4	3	EASY BREEZY 35 O Sherwood 6-11-9	J Osborne	83
5	5/3-	FINE SIR 538 T Thomson Jones 6-11-9	A Tory	79
6	632	FLYING GUNNER 60 D Nicholson 5-11-9	R Bellamy	90
7	-240	GARNWIN 36 N Henderson 6-11-9	M A Fitzgerald	84
8	02	GENERAL PONGO 9 T George 7-11-9	J Railton	75
9	1	GRANHAM PRIDE 129 (S) K Bailey 6-11-9	R Dunwoody	–
10	2/4	HARRY THE HORSE 25 J Old 8-11-9	G Upton	–
11	5522	JUST 'N ACE 21 J Gifford 5-11-9	P Hide	89
12	100-	MY WARRIOR 501 (F) M Campion 8-11-9	B Clifford	–
13	232	PALOSANTO 27 M Pipe 6-11-9	D Bridgwater	[illegible]
14	0600	PURBECK RAMBLER 20 G Balding 5-11-9	R Greene	69
15	6P	SPEEDY SNAPSGEM 21 (BF) P Hobbs 6-11-9	M Moran (7)	–
16	0P-	STONE BRAMBLE 392 Miss H Knight 6-11-9	J F Titley	–
17	0-03	SWEET TRENTINO 18 M Tate 5-11-9	B Fenton (3)	78
18	5325	THE GREY FRIAR 34 Mrs H Knight 7-11-9	Mr J Culloty (5)	93
19	0240	THE REVEREND BERT 9 G Balding 8-11-9	A P McCoy	97
20	0	THE TOISEACH 104 (BF) J Fanshawe 5-11-9	T J Murphy (3)	–
21	1/	VITAMAN 702 (F) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-9	W Marston	–

9-2 Just 'N Ace, 5-1 Flying Gunner, 6-1 Dajraan, Easy Breezy, 8-1 Palosanto, Granham Pride, 10-1 Vitaman, 12-1 Harry The Horse, 14-1 others.

3.25 BETTERTON NOVICES CHASE (£4,118: 3m) (3)

1	-11F	ST MELLION FAIRWAY 37 (D,G,S) D Nicholson 7-11-12	R Dunwoody	98
2	1/P2	SUPER GOSSIP 28 (F) P Hedger 7-11-4	M A Fitzgerald	80
3	4242	DOM SAMOURAI 65 (B,S) M Pipe 5-11-2	D Bridgwater	[illegible]

4-11 St Mellion Fairway, 3-1 Dom Samourai, 12-1 Super Gossip

4.00 PAUL CROUCHER MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£4,500: 2m 4f) (6)

1	1-54	AROUND THE HORN 97 (C,G,S) J Gifford 9-12-0	P Hide	91
2	4-P1	PASHTO 15 (D,F,G,S) N Henderson 9-12-0	M A Fitzgerald	98
3	FPU6	WISE APPROACH 6 (D,F,G,S) K Bailey 9-11-8	J Railton	95
4	P3UU	ALL FOR LUCK 10 (CD,G,S) M Pipe 11-11-4	D Bridgwater	[illegible]
5	0604	NICKLE JOE 18 (D,F,G,S) M Tate 10-10-0	W Marston	85
6	FU02	WYLAM 20 (D,F,G,S) J Gifford 9-10-0	L Aspell (7)	95

5-4 Pashto, 3-1 Around The Horn, 6-1 Wylam, 8-1 Nickle Joe, 10-1 others.

4.35 NEWBURY RACECOURSE STATION HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O: £3,396: 2m 110yd) (7)

1	121	HAMILTON SILK 13 (D,G,S) M Pipe 11-10	J Osborne	[illegible]
2	3522	PEDALTOTHEMETAL 14 (BF) P Mitchell 10-8	G Tormey (3)	98
3	21F1	CENTAUR EXPRESS 16 (D,G) A Streeter 10-8	T Eley	98
4	05F	RICHELIEU 23 P Webber 10-6	A P McCoy	94
5	004	HIGHLY CHARMING 16 W Muir 10-1	T Jenks	90
6	2404	GOLDWYN 18 D Nicholson 10-0	W Marston	95
7	060	VERDE LUNA 34F D Arbuthnot 10-0	Mr J Culloty (5)	87

7-4 Hamilton Silk, 4-1 Centaur Express, Pedaltothemetal, 6-1 Goldwyn, 8-1 others.

☐ The National Stakes at the Curragh will be sponsored by the Aga Khan's Irish studs this September. The group one race will be named the Aga Khan Studs National Stakes.

KELSO

THUNDERER

2.15 Three Wild Days. 2.45 Caithness Cloud. 3.15 Brambleberry. 3.50 Stormy Coral. 4.20 Final Hope. 4.50 Shallow River. 5.20 Master Nova.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 THREE WILD DAYS.

Carl Evans: 4.20 Final Hope.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) — SIS

2.15 PERCY ARMS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,814: 2m 2f) (11 runners)

1	RP40	BARNABY WILLOW 21 B Mactaggart 10-12	B Storey
[illegible]	432	CRYSTAL GIFT 21 A Whillans 10-12	M Moloney
3	00	MOVIE MAN 27 J Turner 10-12	W Fry
4	54	PRINCE EQUINAME 11 D Eddy 10-12	A Dobbin
5	U350	RALITSA 4 M Hammond 10-12	L Wyer
6	04	SUL FOSSO 14 Mrs S Smith 10-12	R Guest
7	0042	THREE WILD DAYS 18 T Tate 10-12	Mr S Swiers
8	00	WANDERING HANDS 15 B Wilkinson 10-12	M Foster
9	SP	WHAT'S SECRETO 17 H Alexander 10-12	F Leahy (3)
10	0435	OUR RAINBOW 17 Mrs S Austin 10-7	B Grattan (7)
11		TRYPH 298F M Hammond 10-7	Mr C Bonner (3)

5-2 Ralitsa, 4-1 Crystal Gift, 5-1 Three Wild Days, 6-1 Prince Equiname, 8-1 Tryph, 10-1 Sul Fosso, 12-1 others

2.45 ERIC SCARTH NOVICES CHASE
(£3,820: 2m 1f) (10)

1	3433	BRIAR'S DELIGHT 17 (V,F,G) R Allan 8-11-2	L Wyer
2	-322	CAITHNESS CLOUD 23 (S) C Parker 8-11-2	B Storey
3	FP	CUSH SUPREME 50 (BF) F Murphy 7-11-2	P Carberry
4	5BU2	DEVILRY 18 (B,S) G Moore 6-11-2	N Bentley
5	-006	DOMINO NIGHT 66 G Richards 6-11-2	A Dobbin
6	-660	GULER-A 62 R Craggs 8-11-2	N Smith
7	4534	LIVE AND LET LIVE 32 (V) Miss L Russell 12-11-2	M Foster
8	4P-U	THOMAS THE TANK 133 R Goldie 12-11-2	R Supple
9	/5P	GROUSE-N-HEATHER 21 P Monteith 7-10-11	D Parker
10	6545	JUST MOLLY 24 W Reed 9-10-11	T Reed

2-1 Devilry, 9-4 Caithness Cloud, 7-2 Briar's Delight, 8-1 Domino Night, 14-1 Just Molly, 16-1 Guler-A, 20-1 others

3.15 SPORT OF KINGS CLASSIC RACEWEAR HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,814: 2m 2f) (8)

1	1030	COQUI LANE 27 (CD,S) J Dun 9-11-12	D Parker (3)
2	1556	DANCING DOVE 13 (CD,F,G) G Richards 8-11-9	A Dobbin
3	0043	COOL LUKE 13 (F,S) G Moore 7-11-3	P Carberry
4	0043	BRAMBLEBERRY 11 (CD,G,S) Mrs S Smith 7-11-1	R Guest
5	3-22	SUPREME SOVIET 38 A Whillans 6-10-3	M Moloney
6	613-	WELL APPOINTED 329 (F) B Mactaggart 7-10-3	L Wyer
7	4P1-	CASUAL PASS 297 (CD,F,G,S) L Lungo 13-10-0	F Perratt
8	P-04	MUSIC BLITZ 53 Mrs D Thomson 5-10-0	G Cahill (5)

11-4 Supreme Sonet, 3-1 Cool Luke, 5-1 Coqui Lane, 11-2 Brambleberry, 6-1 Dancing Dove, 8-1 Well Appointed 14-1 others.

3.50 KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase: £4,221: 3m 1f) (8)

1	-21U	CEILIDH BOY 6 (B,C,F,G,S) Mrs J Goodfellow 10-11-12	R Guest
2	2415	EMERALD STORM 20 (CD,F,G,S) P Monteith 9-11-11	G Cahill (5)
3	3-P3	ALI'S ALIBI 17 (CD,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 9-11-9	P Niven
4	4-63	WAYUPHILL 17 (S) J J O'Neill 9-10-5	A Roche (3)
5	-400	VAYRUA 17 (G,S) J Hellens 11-10-2	A Dobbin
6	-111	STORMY CORAL 53 (G,S) C Parker 6-10-1	B Storey
7	6-5P	BENGHAZI 38 (S) A Thomson 12-10-0	D Parker (3)
8	316-	EASTER OATS 326 (F,S) R Goldie 9-10-0	R Supple

2-1 Stormy Coral, 11-4 Emerald Storm, 4-1 Ceilidh Boy, 6-1 Ali's Alibi, 8-1 Wayuphill, 14-1 Vayrua, 20-1 others.

4.20 J RUTHERFORD EARLSTON HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,211: 3m 4f) (8)

1	4-311	FINAL HOPE 20P (F,G,S) R Tate 8-12-2	Mrs F Needham (7)
2	21-22	ROYAL JESTER 21 (C,BF,F,G,S) Mrs J Storey 12-12-2	C Storey (5)
3	P-321	PARLEBIZ 14 (F,S) A Wight 7-11-11	A Robson (7)
4	2-561	BOW HANDY MAN 20P (D,F,G,S) J Gledson 14-11-10	T Scott (7)
5	1R3-P	MR DIPLOMATIC 8 (B,G,S) J Llewellen Palmer 13-11-10	M Bradburne (7)
6	2U-3P	POLITICAL ISSUE 20P (C,F,S) T Robson 12-11-10	P Johnson (5)
7	-66U5	TODDLIN HAME 6P (S) W Hodge 14-11-10	T Didcock (7)
8	431P/	BIRTLEY GIRL 684 (G) D Hutchinson 12-11-5	R Hale (5)

3-1 Final Hope, 7-2 Royal Jester, 9-2 Parlebiz, 5-1 Bow Handy Man, 6-1 Political Issue, 8-1 Birtley Girl, 16-1 others

4.50 FAMOUS GROUSE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,541: 2m 6f 110yd) (10)

1	2631	SHALLOW RIVER 17 (G) R Collins 5-11-6	P Niven
2	4-60	CURRENT MONY 104 M Hammond 5-10-12	Mr C Bonner (3)
3	6/0	KINGS LANE 41 J Dun 7-10-12	D Parker (3)
4	0/0	LISMORE LAD 11 R Allan 7-10-12	S Melrose (7)
5	66-P	SPRING CALL 18 R Tate 6-10-12	Mr K Whelan (5)
6	0030	STRONGALONG 18 P Cheesbrough 6-10-12	R Supple
7	-055	TURKISH TOWER 11 R Nixon 5-10-12	N Bentley
8	060	VILPRANO 17 D Moffatt 5-10-12	D J Moffatt
9	1-0	DAISY DAYS 23 (S) H Johnson 6-10-7	P Carberry
10	-U05	KINFAUNS DANCER 17 Miss L Russell 8-10-7	M Foster

5-4 Shallow River, 6-1 Daisy Days, 8-1 Current Mony, 10-1 Strongalong, Spring Call, Turkish Tower, 12-1 others

5.20 FAMOUS GROUSE NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div II: £2,541: 2m 6f 110yd) (10)

1	32F4	TOUGH TEST 107 (CD,F) Mrs J Goodfellow 6-11-5	F Perratt
2	0260	DESERT BRAVE 20 Mrs S Smith 6-10-12	R Guest
3	5-56	GARBO'S BOY 118 J Turner 6-10-12	W Fry
4	05	KENMARE RIVER 72 R Collins 6-10-12	L Wyer
5	4-22	MASTER NOVA 22 (BF,S) M Camacho 6-10-12	P Niven
6	P	THE ALAMO 15 R Collins 5-10-12	P Carberry
7	-U00	BLACK MAGIC WOMAN 15 J Hellens 8-10-7	A Dobbin
8	0P0B	DAVWILTIMO 15 (V) D Moffatt 6-10-7	D J Moffatt
9	0-00	GAME POINT 58 D Lamb 7-10-7	A Manners (7)
10		POPIN AGAIN 356P I Park 7-10-7	N Smith

8-11 Master Nova, 7-1 Desert Brave, Tough Test, 10-1 Garbo's Boy 12-1 Kenmare River, 14-1 The Alamo, 16-1 others

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11/1	Bagshot	25/1	Best Of All
14/1	Celestial Choir	25/1	Golden Pound
14/1	Duke Valentino	28/1	Knobbleeneeze
14/1	Sotoboy	28/1	Lynton Lad
16/1	Country Love	33/1	Barrel Of Hope
16/1	Night Wink	33/1	Dances With Hooves
16/1	Tulu	33/1	New Century
20/1	Aeroking	40/1	Petoskin
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Clubs and unions seek way forward

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE doubt and uncertainty that has shrouded the future structure of rugby union in the northern hemisphere may lift after the series of meetings taking place this week, though no one will guarantee it. In particular, the framework of European club competition should become clearer.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU), whose executive committee chairman, Cliff Brittle, left, appealed for unity this week, met representatives of the English first division clubs in London yesterday; today it is the turn of the French clubs, who gather at the office of the French federation in Paris, while tomorrow the Welsh rugby union is due to thrash out differences with its leading clubs.

The questions under debate are much the same in all three countries, but the Paris meeting is of particular significance since it is the first time that the federation has recognised officially the existence of the Union des Clubs, the 40-strong association presided over by Seraphin Berthier, who is the treasurer of the powerful Grenoble club.

The fundamental issue is the funding of the game at club level in the professional era. Hitherto, the clubs in all three countries have been accustomed to their national union distributing sponsorship money; now they seek to do it for themselves.

Against that must be balanced the trump card of international rugby, which the unions hold. In the immediate, and possibly long-term, future the game will gain exposure not through club rugby but through its international programme, which also offers commercial possiblities for the better players.

The unknown factor is the degree to which both sides are prepared to compromise. The key to progress appears to be the Heineken Cup, which the clubs believe offers them new money, through fresh commercial and television arrangements — though it seems unfortunate that so far there has been little consultation with the brewing company which, like ITV, has options for a further two years on a contract understood to be worth some £20 million.

Heineken whose sponsorship of the Welsh league ends this season, is looking at marketing opportunities on the continent and believes that an expanded European tournament, shown to millions on terrestrial television, represents better value than the double-decker competition formula backed by satellite television towards which the clubs are groping.

Meanwhile, European Rugby Cup Limited (ERC), the organiser of the Heineken Cup on behalf of the five nations, waits patiently to hear the names of next season's participants. Ireland's and Scotland's leading three provinces are already nominated, as are Toulouse, the holders, and Brieve, winners of the du Manoir competition, from France plus the finalists in the French club championship. The leading Irish clubs are due to meet Syd Millar, the Irish Rugby Football Union president, on March 31.

ERC wants to proceed with a 20-club competition next season, knowing that it can extend the tournament's horizons as soon as it likes, such is the interest from Italy, Russia, Spain and Holland. The English and Welsh clubs want to bring in the rest of their first division bretheren and establish a second-tier competition, though the playing benefits of such an event may be limited.

☐ Matthew Lewis, the Bridgend stand-off half, has become the second Welsh to sign for Wasps. He will join the Neath lock, Glyn Llewellyn, there.

Balshaw shines in sevens victory

By a Correspondent

IAIN BALSHAW, an England schools full back, masterminded Stonyhurst's second open title at the national seven-a-side rugby union competition at Rosslyn Park yesterday. Balshaw, playing for the first time in the world's largest sevens tournament, scored an outstanding 16 tries during the competition and two in his school's 29-10 win in the final against Glantaf.

A schools cricket cap for Lancashire, Balshaw showed his versatility by hauling his side back into the tournament earlier in the day when they were on the verge of going out in both the quarter- and semi-final stages.

Against Glantaf, who had beaten a fellow Welsh side, Hawthorn, in the quarter-final, three tries in the first half, one from Balshaw, were enough to ensure Stonyhurst would take their seventh sevens win of the season.

Another try from Balshaw, and one from Gerald Maughan, sent them into a 29-0 lead. Although Glantaf hit back with two scores, the cup had already been won.

Stonyhurst had struggled, however, in the semi-final, trailing 15-14 with two minutes left of their game against Wimbledon College, before Mark Morris dived over to clinch victory.

For Glantaf, their attentions turn to the Welsh schools semi-final. On Monday, they face Crosskeys College.

Results, page 39

Hastings steps uneasily into new role

MARC ASPLAND

Gavin Hastings follows a familiar routine in the unfamiliar suit of an American footballer as he adjusts to his new lifestyle with the Scottish Claymores at their training camp in Carrollton, Georgia (Richard Wetherell writes). The former Scotland rugby union captain, who is being groomed as a kicker, said the experience is a "culture shock, but every day I learn a bit more".

Hastings, who unsurprisingly has been given a No 15 shirt, played down his chances of making the starting line-up when the World League season opens next month. "It would have been easier to keep playing international rugby," he said.

Hastings has been at the camp for two weeks. At a scrimmage, a practice against another team on Tuesday, when he kicked one out of three field goals, Hastings was unnerved by not knowing what to do when he came on to the pitch. He described it as "panic stations". "Where to you place the ball? Where do you run to? Do you go into the huddle with the rest of the guys? These are questions you have to know the answers to."

Scotland's record points scorer knows that the Claymores would love to have him in the team, but he is reluctant to commit himself. His feelings have not changed since he agreed to join them last month, when he said: "If I kick like an idiot, I won't be coming back as a Scottish Claymore — it's as simple as that."

Hastings is also aware that he benefits from the World League regulation that seven of the team must be European. "If they didn't have any national players, I would not be here."

His main rival for the kicking job is Paul McCallum, who played in the Canadian Football League last year, and whose parents were born in Scotland. That may be a nice hook, but certainly less of an attraction than Hastings would be to entice people to Murrayfield.

South Africans heed rallying cry

From David Rhys Jones
in Adelaide

THE cry of "Op die Bokke!" that rent the air at the Lockleys Bowls Centre inspired three South Africans to great feats in the final round-robin session of the triples at the world outdoor bowls championship here yesterday.

Perhaps their supporters had forgotten, for the moment, that the national emblem is no longer the springbok, but "up the Proteas!" does not have the same ring to it.

Theuns Fraser, Ashley Van Winkel and Kevin Campbell needed to beat Ian McClure, Gary McCloy and Noel Graham, of Ireland, by at least 13 shots to secure a place in the semi-finals, but the Irish trio were rock steady for the first nine ends, by which stage the scores were level at 9-9.

Campbell's men, however, claimed a count of five on the eleventh end and four on the thirteenth, opening up a 20-9 advantage.

Ireland seemed to have stemmed the tide when they won two of the next three ends, reducing the margin to nine shots at 21-12. A count of three gave the South Africans a 24-12 lead and meant that whoever scored on the final end would advance to the last four. Suddenly, Irish nerves started to jangle and the South Africans scored a decisive double.

In the semi-finals today, South Africa will take on Scotland, who came through their section unbeaten, and Australia meet New Zealand, who moved past England in one of the best matches of the championship.

That encounter, between two hitherto unbeaten teams, amounted to a sudden-death knockout and could have gone either way.

Brett Morley, David Cutler and John Bell, the England trio, could point to one end, mid-game, that led to their downfall.

Twice they built up good positions, only to see Peter Belliss, the New Zealand skip, kill the end. On the second replay, New Zealand scored three shots and stole the initiative.

In the seventeenth end, trailing 13-17, England gambled. Bell fired, spot on target, and almost made four shots to tie the match; instead, New Zealand were left with a crucial count of five.

The play left England 22-13adrift and the match was virtually over.

Results, page 39

England lead way home

ENGLAND retained the women's home international team bowls championship when they defeated Scotland 113-100 in Llanelli yesterday (Gordon Allan writes). Apart from a brief spell early in a rousing match, Scotland were forced to play catch-up bowls and England finished the calmer, stronger side.

Wales secured third place with an easy win over Ireland, who finished last.

SCORES: Wales 143 Ireland 94 (Wales skips first): C Morgan lost to B Cameron 15-26; R Jones bt N Montgomery 42-5; A Danton bt B Wylie 26-10; S Oliver lost to J Mulholland 18-23; B Morgan bt M Johnston 20-16; D Rowlands bt M Mallon 22-14. England 113 Scotland 100 (England skips first): J Roylance lost to J Sykes 19-23; W Line bt E Wren 17-14; M Price bt E McGarvie 19-13; N Shaw bt J Lindores 24-19; M Steele bt F Haxton 19-15; D Hankin lost to J Conlan 15-16

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WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *40*

ABNEY
(c) A small hand instrument used by surveyors for measuring slopes and angles above the horizon. The eponym of Sir William *Abney* (1844-1921). As in the *Abney level*. "The Abney level or clinometer, which consists of a sighting tube fixed to a semicircular vertical plate marked in degrees, with a spirit level attached to its index, is used to measure vertical angles."

GONGORA
(b) A plant or flower of the genus of tropical American orchids so named. A humble eponym from the proud name of Don Antonio Caballero y *Góngora* (fl. 1782), Viceroy of New Granada.

DOGAN
(b) An Irish Roman Catholic, a racist eponym from the fairly common Irish surname from the backwoods. *Dogan*. "Many a time I got a smart clout on the lug and was told to take that for a dirty little logan."

CANOT
(c) The French word for canoe, used in certain French phrases relating to the Canadian fur trade. "The largest kind of canoes used in the trade, viz., those which used to be dispatched from Lachine, on first open water, to Fort William, Lake Superior, and which were called *Canots du Maître*."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nc6! and if 1 ... Qxf3 2 Rxd8 is mate.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	110	240	good	varied	good	sun	-3	16/3
(Good skiing on all runs, some runs soft after lunch)								
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	20	80	good	varied	slush	cloud	6	18/3
(Most pistes still in good shape; some worn/bare patches)								
St Anton	50	170	fair	heavy	slush	fair	7	12/3
(Bare patches growing low down; still good at altitude)								
Schladming	40	80	good	varied	slush	fine	9	18/3
(Good skiing with no bare patches showing yet)								
FRANCE								
Flaine	45	240	good	varied	fair	fair	2	20/3
(Fresh snow and mostly good skiing; mixed visibility)								
La Tania	55	95	fair	heavy	slushy	cloud	2	17/3
(Snow slushy at lower altitudes; ok on upper runs)								
Tignes	100	185	good	varied	art	fine	5	20/3
(Spring conditions; lower slopes heavy in afternoon)								
ITALY								
Livigno	50	90	fair	crusty	fair	fine	-1	19/2
(Reasonably good skiing but snow hard/icy; worn spots)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	45	50	fair	poor	fair	fine	3	17/3
(Some good skiing available; bare patches avoidable)								
C Montana	5	215	fair	heavy	worn	cloud	-2	16/3
(Very heavy conditions after lunch; mixed visibility)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

RADIO CHOICE

What is inside the letter?

Letter from America. *Radio 4, 9.15pm.*

Although you would never have known it if the only radio listings you read are in *Radio Times*, tonight's edition of Alastair Cooke's *Letter from America* is a milestone occasion. It marks the first half century of these matchless essays. The actual anniversary falls on Sunday, which allows *Radio Times* to make amends for making tonight's edition appear to be just another one. Its next issue will mention the anniversary. What you should have read in *Radio Times* is that tonight's *Letter from America* will be a re-recorded version of Cooke's first letter of March 24 1946. It was about GI wives. If I know Alastair Cooke, he will be indulging in some personal memory-stirring too.

For Love Not Money. *Radio 2, 7.00pm.*

Alan Titchmarsh, a versatile professional to his finger tips, once strutted the amateur stage. This, plus his ability correctly to define the word amateur (lover of) without going all dewy-eyed on us, makes him the ideal person to present this series about amateur art in Britain. Apparently, 23 million of us are at it in some way or other. It's the doorway to stability, says the head of the Voluntary Arts Network. Far from being one of life's extras, he believes it is a natural part of human existence. So much for the culture snobs. Tonight's programme takes in set dancing in Northern Ireland, blind and partially sighted potters in Oxford, and full-throated gospel singing in Handsworth, Birmingham.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat, and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat, **6.15** The Net and at **6.30** The Mix **7.00** Essential Selection **10.00** John Peel **1.00am** Radio 1 Rap Show

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Alex Lester **5.05** Paul Heiney **7.00** For Love Not Money. See Choice **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **8.45** Bogarde on Film (3/7) **9.00** Listen to the Band **10.00** Ian Anderson, Radio 2 Arts Programme **12.05am** Digby Fairweather **1.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme. Incl **6.55**, **7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl **11.30** Science News **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck; and at **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Alan Green's Sportstalk **8.35** Off Piste **9.05** American Graffiti **9.35** Stop Press **10.05** Entertainment Superhighway, with Quentin Cooper **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night, with Richard Dallyn

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00-6.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT**. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Minefields **8.00** News **8.10** Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** News in German **9.15** Faith **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Meridian **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Science in Action **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.00** News in German **3.15** Music Review **4.00** News **4.15** World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.00** Newdesk **10.30** The New Europe **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** Minefields **11.45** Farming **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** From the Weeklies **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Review **1.15** Seven Days **1.30** Jazz **1.45** Good Books **2.00** Newsday **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Vintage Chart Show **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Jazz **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto**3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Verdict **8.00** Evening Concert includes, Rossini (William Tell Overture); Holst (The Planets) **10.00** Michael Mappin **12.00** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in G minor, Op 6 No 1); Poulenc (Organ Concerto in G minor); Gorecki (Euntes ibant et flebant); Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor); Canteloube (Songs of the Auvergne); Alkan (Concerto da camera No 1 in A minor)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Boyce (Symphony in D, Op 2 No 5); Schumann (Kinderszenen); Schumann (Symphony No 4 in D minor)
10.00 Musical Encounters with Chris de Souza. Froberger (Plainte faite a Londres pour passer la melancolie; Toccata XI); Medtner (Sonata-vocalise); Messiaen (Cinq rechants, No 5); Prokofiev (Piano Sonata No 3 in A minor); Martinů (Symphony No 5); **11.00** *Artists of the Week*: Juilliard Quartet. Mozart (String Quartet in E flat, K614); **11.30** Messiaen (O sacrum convivium!); Alfven (Swedish Rhapsody No 3, Dalarapsodi)
12.00 Composers of the Week: The Court of Frederick the Great. Bach (Musical Offering to Frederick); Zelenka (sonatas); C.P.E. Bach (sonatas)
1.00pm Bristol Lunchtime Concert: Stravinsky Plus, from St George's, Brandon Hill. Continuing a series of concerts featuring the music of Igor Stravinsky
2.00 Schools. Let's Make a Story **2.15** Music Box **2.30** Dance Workshop **2.50** Poetry Corner
3.00 The Fifties. Mining the Archive: Come to the Festival of Britain!
4.20 The Fifties. Hits of the Fifties (3/4)
4.30 Spring Flowers from Kurdistan. A selection of traditional music (r)
5.00 The Music Machine: BBC Singers
5.15 In Tune with Jeremy Nicholas. Including Rimsky-Korsakov (Procession of the Nobles, Mlada); Steiner (Overture, King Kong); Paganini (Violin Concerto No 1 in D)
7.30 The Fifties. Towards the Millennium live from Studio One, Pebble Mill, the third of four recitals of music from the 1950s. Andrew Ball, piano, performs Messiaen (Le Loriot, Catalogue d'oiseaux); Copland (Fantasy). **8.15** Focus on the Fifties. Humphrey Burton talks to the three surviving members of the Amadeus Quartet. **8.35** Takemitsu (Litany); Stockhausen (Piano Piece No 5); Shostakovich (Preludes and Fugues, Op 87: No 7 in A; No 12 in G sharp minor; No 15 in D flat; No 24 in D)
9.30 The Sonnet: Tony Harrison
9.50 The Fifties. Hear and Now: Towards the Millennium. Birmingham Contemporary Music Group under Daniel Harding. Including Stockhausen (Zyklus for percussion); Cage (Aria for solo voice; Fontana mix), Messiaen (Oiseaux exotiques); Malcolm Lipkin (Oboe Concerto)
12.00-1.00am Britannia at the Opera: Alfred (1753 version). Roderic Dunnett presents extracts from Thomas Arne's opera (r)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing and weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30**, **7.00**, **7.30**, **8.00**, **8.30** News **6.55**, **7.55** Weather **7.25**, **8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Lord Alexander (r)
9.45 Feedback
10.00-10.30 News; Beyond Reasonable Doubt (FM only). The files of murder cases are reopened to examine possible miscarriages of justice (1/6)
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour. Wendy Austin explores Mount Stewart garden in County Down. Serial: *Joyce Grenfell Requests the Pleasure* (3/10)
11.30 The Natural History Programme
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm The Food Programme presented by Derek Cooper **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: The Roads to Freedom, by Jean-Paul Sartre. Dramatised by Nigel Gearing (3/3) (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift with Laurie Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow explores an exhibition about David Livingstone
4.45 Short Story: We're Not Jews by Hanif Kureishi. Read by Eve Karpf
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Going Places. David Stafford introduces more weekend activities and pastimes including collecting piranha fish in Glasgow
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week with Chris Serle
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a debate in Mold, Clwyd. With Dr Kim Howells, MP, Shadow Trade and Industry spokesperson; Ruth Lea, Head of Policy at the Institute of Directors; author Dr Rosalind Miles; and Rod Richards, MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales
8.50 Points of Departure: Robert Fisk. The journalist Robert Fisk talks about his years of reporting from the war-torn and volatile Middle East region (1/6) (r)
9.15 Letter from America See Choice
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: What's the Big Idea? (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Picnic at Hanging Rock by Joan Lindsay. Read by Lisa Harrow (5/10) (r)
11.00 Week Ending
11.25 Tea Junction with Patrick Hannan
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather
12.30 The Late Book: Metroland. Julian Barnes reads his first novel (5/10)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**

Unfairly assigned the lion's share of blame

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

At the end of **Reputations** (BBC2) last night, the actress Virginia McKenna summed up reaction to the real Joy Adamson, whom she'd memorably portrayed in the film *Born Free*. "You either thought she was incredible and wonderful, or you couldn't tolerate her," she said. "There was no middle path." Banal as it may sound, this analysis came as a bit of a surprise. By this late stage, very little evidence had been found of anyone thinking Joy Adamson incredible or wonderful; she was by now bang to rights as a ruthless Teutonic man-eater with funny ideas about lions. Grizzled game park rangers, who had clearly always hated Joy Adamson for marrying their old mate George, leant on their guns and confided the source of their unease. "She *was sexed up, if that's the expression*," said one, *hilariously*. Well, it's *not* the expression, actually.

As a subject for a revisionist exercise, Joy Adamson was easy prey. That *Born Free* film in 1966, celebrating love, coupledom, cross-species adoration and khaki shorts, failed to mention that Joy married George in Kenya during the war because she was an enemy alien who faced internment. So she seduced him in the bush (if that's the right expression) and the rest is history. George was taciturn, with an alcohol and tobacco habit (considered "woman-proof" by his many fans) so it's unlikely he proved the best of husbands. But the unhappiness of the marriage was cheerfully pinned on Joy last night, echoing the game-hunter consensus. George was a good, simple bloke. That Joy actually turned to lions for love speaks of a marital desperation that has so far gone unremarked.

This posthumous demolition of famous people's personalities is not a comfortable thing. At least *Reputations* left Joy Adamson's achievements intact: *Born Free* had a huge effect on conservationist attitudes, and the syrupy film version included a sequence of Bill Travers and Virginia McKenna swimming either side of Elsa which made me weep, even now. Perhaps *Reputations* should have interviewed a few lions, instead of all the people who didn't like her. Elspeth Huxley, one of Joy's few fans, said *Born Free* was a love story; as such it was certainly touching. Incidentally, Huxley's caption included the words "Godparent to Elsa", an unexplained but rather wonderful distinction.

My postman doesn't like **EastEnders** (BBC1): he says it's like "walking into a trap", and I find myself powerless to counter an aversion as heartfelt (and vivid) as that. For those of us already struggling with our head in a clamp, however, last night was a joyous occasion for two reasons. First, Kath (Gillian Taylforth) finally had her baby, in a swift labour in her own home. And second, Pat (Pam St Clements) resorted to bitchiness, a subtle form of verbal attack much too rarely employed in Albert Square, where wounds are generally frontal and gory. For example, Tiffany might put her minxy face right up against Sam's little nose and say, "You ain't got no friends, ave ya?", thus earning the familiar reproach from Grant that she is right out of order.

Anyway, the circumstances were these. Peggy (Barbara Windsor) was boasting about her imminent birthday party at the Vic, and trying Pat's patience, and then it happened. "You'd better go home and put your face on then," said Pat. Ooooooh. (Peggy had her face on already!) "She don't look a day over 60," Pat commented drily after Peggy had stomped off on her little leopardskin legs. Which was a big joke, you see, because she's supposed to be 54.

Of course Peggy's party got riotous at the Vic at precisely the time when Kath was in bed across the square, howling in labour, yelling for Phil. You may remember how, before Christmas, Arthur's painful interrogation scenes were similarly intercut with contrasting, ironic, ho-ho, clink-clink merriment elsewhere. "Your baby's got some hair!" said Kath's midwife excitedly, but it was too obviously a set-up. She only had this line so that the viewers across the land could chorus, "Not like his dad, then" and feel clever for thinking of it.

Channel 4's **Undercover Britain** concerned British building workers ripped off in Germany. It was *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet* without the jokes; it was Ken Loach's *Riff Raff* with racism on top; and, like last week's astonishing film about illegal guns for sale, fully vindicated the use of hidden cameras to get a story no journalist could get in the conventional way. Ostensibly undertaking a less dangerous mission than confronting crack-head gun-runners in a car in Moss Side, this week's heroes (headed by Neil Davis) took their cameras on the windy roof of a site in East Berlin, and found something equally terrifying. The roof was slippery: there was no scaffolding or safety barrier. It was attainable only by means of a ladder which was not secured, and not quite long enough either.

The real scandal, however, was that the men working these dangerous and illegal sites are often not paid afterwards, and can't do anything about their treatment except complain and move on. There are no contracts, and the deals are made on mobile phones by Dutch "subbies" (sub-contractors) whose consistent Dutchness was unquestioned, oddly. Why are all subbies Dutch? It was a mystery. But then all the roofers are Brits and Irish, and all the slave labour are Turks and Bosnians. You might say there was a hierarchical ladder here, arranged on racial principles. A ladder that unfortunately doesn't reach high enough and isn't attached to anything in the first place.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (19254)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (23735)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (6702087)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (2138483)

9.45 Kilroy (s) (8952938)

10.30 Good Morning (s) (13071)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2089803)

12.05pm Turnabout (s) (5402445)

12.30 Going for a Song (s) (31803)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (26822)

1.30 Regional News and weather (57419975)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (94623261)

2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (8318209)

2.40 Moon over Miami (Ceefax) (s) (1022938)

3.30 Ants in Your Pants (s) (6999803) **3.50 Look Sharp!** (s) (5698984) **4.05 The Littlest Pet Shop** (7235782) **4.25 The All New Popeye Show** (4545700) **4.35 The Mask** (2795532) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (3471984) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (1154532)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (616700)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (241)

6.30 Regional news magazines (551)

7.00 Wipeout. Three contestants compete for the star prize of a holiday (Ceefax) (s) (5613) **WALES: 7.00** Don't Look Back (5613)

7.30 Tomorrow's World: Megalab 96 (Ceefax) (s) (735)

8.00 Hi-De-Hi. Joe Maplin orders the camp staff to enter a float in the local carnival. With Paul Shane, Ruth Madoc and Jeffrey Holland (r) (Ceefax) (7261)

8.30 A Question of Sport. Will Carling and Ian Botham are joined by Jack Russell, Gordon Sherry, Jeremy Guscott and Du'aine Ladejo. Bill Beaumont takes over the questionmaster's seat for two weeks. (Ceefax) (s) (6396)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7006)

9.30 FILM: Memoirs of an Invisible Man (1992) with Chevy Chase and Daryl Hannah. A stock analyst is made invisible in a freak accident and becomes the quarry of ruthless CIA agents who want to employ his unusual gifts. Fleeing from his pursuers, he teams up with the woman of his dreams for an adventurous spy escapade. Directed by John Carpenter (s) (919445) **N.I.: 9.30** P. K. Tonight **10.20** FILM: Memoirs of an Invisible Man **11.55** FILM: The Sting **2.00am** Weather **WALES: 9.30** I've Been Eddie Mostyn (82613) **10.30** FILM: Memoirs of an Invisible Man (41939280) **12.05** FILM: The Sting (74614304) **2.10** News Headlines; Weather (6137323)

11.05 FILM: The Sting (1973) with Robert Redford and Paul Newman. Multi-Oscar winning comedy-drama set in Chicago in 1936 about two con-men hatching a plan to gain revenge for the death of a friend at the hands of a petty racketeer. Directed by George Roy Hill (Ceefax) (59390990)

1.10am Weather (8452439)

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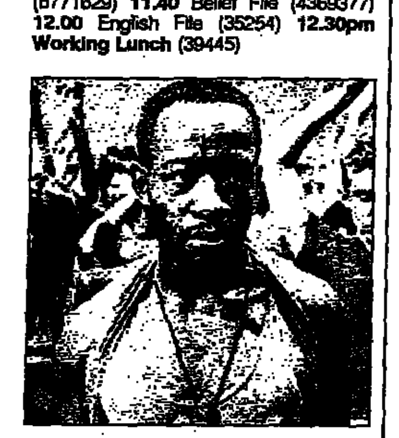
BBC2

6.00am Open University: Biology Form and Function (9560464) **6.25** Christopher Plantin, Polyglot Printer of Antwerp (9476071) **6.50** Art in 15th-Century Italy (6764629)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (1666919)

7.30 Stingray (r) (Ceefax) (31700) **8.00 The Really Wild Show** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (5372464) **8.25 The Little Polar Bear** (r) (1527613) **8.30 Teddy Trucks** (r) (9604700) **8.40 The Record** (s) (6980735)

9.05 Daytime on Two: Job Bank (1658483) **9.15** Teaching Today (860803) **9.45** Watch (9055629) **10.00** Playdays (85087) **10.30** Cats' Eyes (3285532) **10.45** Numbers Plus (3280087) **11.00** Look and Read (6988025) **11.20** Short Circuit (6771629) **11.40** Belief File (4369377) **12.00** English File (35254) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (39445)



Lennie James as Ramon (1.00pm)

1.00 Scene: The People are the Forest (24464)

1.30 Showcase (65514349) **1.45 Words and Pictures** (74069254)

2.00 The Little Polar Bear (r) (44918716) **2.05 Teddy Trucks** (r) (44917087) **2.10 Open View** (s) (44932396)

2.15 Sport on Friday (s) (736822) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (4963174)

4.00 Today's the Day (s)(464) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (648) **5.00 Esther** (s) (6919)

5.30 The World Figure Skating Championships (s) (700)

6.00 The Munsters (b/w) (Ceefax) (798919) **6.25 The Champions**(Ceefax) (157464) **7.15 Electric Circus** (s) (359464)

7.30 Secret Nature. Andrew Cooper discovers the surprising aftermath of oil spills and shipwrecks (r) (Ceefax) (s) (377) **N.I.: 7.30-8.00** Hearts and Minds

8.00 Being There Between the Tides. Wildlife cameraman Ian McCarthey captures the atmosphere and wildlife of an estuary in winter (s) (5803)

8.30 Gardeners' World (Ceefax) (s) (4938)

9.00 The Fast Show (5648)

9.30 Red Dwarf VI (r) (Ceefax) (59209)

10.00 Fist of Fun. Comedy show (s) (85713)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (860629)

11.15 The Smell of Reeves and Mortimer (r) (Ceefax) (s) (949919) **WALES: 11.15** Lobby **11.45** Reeves and Mortimer **12.15am** The Life **1.05-2.55** FILM: Bliss

11.45 This Life. Drama series about five old college friends who live together (r) (Ceefax) (s) (622716)

12.35 FILM: Bliss (1985) with Barry Otto, Lynette Curran and Helen Jones. After a heart attack, an advertising executive takes steps to dramatically change his life. Directed by Ray Lawrence (657304). Ends at **2.30am**

CHOICE

Scene: The People Are the Forest
BBC2, 1.00pm

The actor Douglas Hodge makes his debut as writer and director with a drama about the destruction of the Amazon rainforest. The project is aimed at schools but, as so often with the *Scene* series, contains matter for maturer minds as well. Hodge's screenplay, which he wrote with Peter Searles, is more than a standard tale of exploiters and exploited. The logging company which has been felling the trees is the clear villain. The native people who live in the forest are the main victims. But the drama's concern is with the people in between, shanty town dwellers trying to scratch a living out of miserable soil. Their dilemma is represented by Don Miguel (Peter Kelly). He has to balance his debt to Ramon (Lennie James), the native Indian who saved his daughter's life, with the chance of work with the logging company.

Tomorrow's World — Megalab 96
BBC1, 7.30pm

An American research team recently offered a welcome diversion from the grimmer news of the day by suggesting that listening to classical music before taking an IQ test can improve the score. Some experts were quick to pour scorn on the so-called Mozart effect but Dr Sue Hallam, a psychologist from London University, took it seriously enough to suggest that *Tomorrow's World* should conduct its own experiment. Thousands of schoolchildren are taking part, all sitting the same IQ test. They will be split into three groups. One will have listened to classical music on Radio 3, the second to pop music on Radio 1 and the third to a discussion on Radio 5. The settling of the Bach versus Blur debate is one of several mass participation projects staged by *Tomorrow's World* to mark National Science Week.

Gardeners' World
BBC2, 8.30pm

You can rely on the pig-tailed Bob Flowerdew to make a garden look scruffy: When it is not old pieces of carpet it is equally unattractive car tyres. He will no doubt retort that the materials cost little or nothing and the ends justify the means. He uses tyres to grow potatoes and, as usual, he knows what he is doing. The idea is to avoid the traditional, back-straining, process of digging and earthing up. He fills the tyre with compost and puts the potato seed in the middle. As the plant grows, he adds more tyres and more compost. As they say of England's rugby style, it is not pretty but it is pretty effective. In tonight's other items, a seedsman tells all about F1 hybrids and the cameras visit a Japanese garden in the Black Country, created by a man forced to take gardening more easily after a stroke.

The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: A Case of Coincidence
ITV, 9.00pm

We are in the 1950s for the latest Rendell tale, which enables the detectives (played by Keith Barron and Ronald Pickup) to wear trilby hats and long raincoats. The significance of the period is otherwise unclear, but trust Rendell to make it so before this two-parter concludes next week. Barron and Pickup are investigating the murders, within a few months of each other, of four young women in the Cambridgeshire fens. When a fifth woman meets her death in the same way, the assumption is that the same killer has struck again. Needless to say it is more complicated than that, particularly when the narrative goes into flashback. But the director, Gavin Millar, manages to keep several balls in the air at the same time while getting the most from the landscape.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4987144)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (2113174) **9.55 Regional News** (Teletext) (4394700)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (8506613)

10.35 This Morning (98638087) **12.20pm Regional News** (2085087)

12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (7862754)

12.55 Murder, She Wrote (s) (2920716)

2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (30711629)

2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (30723464)

2.50 The Good Health Guide (Teletext) (4319261)

3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (7812769) **3.25 Regional News** (5194880)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (5776716) **3.45 Zzzap!** (5691071) **4.00 Talespin** (4977377) **4.25 The Geeks** (4970464) **4.55 Hang On** (1242261)

5.10 A Country Practice (9681735)

5.40 ITN News (Teletext) (238551)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (785445)

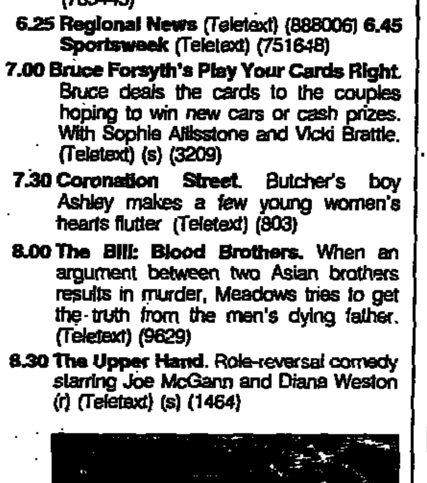
6.25 Regional News (Teletext) (888006) **6.45 Sportsweek** (Teletext) (751648)

7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right. Bruce deals the cards to the couples hoping to win new cars or cash prizes. With Sophie Allisstone and Vicki Brattle. (Teletext) (s) (3209)

7.30 Coronation Street. Butcher's boy Ashley makes a few young women's hearts flutter (Teletext) (803)

8.00 The Bill: Blood Brothers. When an argument between two Asian brothers results in murder, Meadows tries to get the truth from the men's dying father. (Teletext) (9629)

8.30 The Upper Hand. Role-reversal comedy starring Joe McGann and Diana Weston (r) (Teletext) (s) (1464)



Ronald Pickup, Keith Barron (9.00pm)

9.00 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: A Case of Coincidence (Teletext) (s) (5795)

10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) (85759)

10.30 Regional News (410261)

10.40 Entertaining Mr Wedlock. Fred Wedlock talks to child entertainers and finds out what motivates them (702700)

11.10 FILM: The Pit and the Pendulum (1961). Vincent Price in an adaptation of the short story by Edgar Allan Poe. Directed by Roger Corman (593880)

12.35am Hotel Babylon (s) (8041120)

1.15 The Good Sex Guide . . . Late (s) (250656) **2.15 The Jacksons: An American Dream** (r) (s) (19160304)

4.40 Music Box Profile (42042762)

5.00 On the Live Side. Fusion maestros Mike Mainieri and Billy Cobham (13101)

5.30 ITN News (98946). Ends at **6.00**

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As HTV WEST except:

2.50pm-3.20 The Really Helpful Programme (4319261)

6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (943358)

10.40 Friday Live (980342)

11.40 Hunter (193629)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 My Story (2093006)

12.55 Coronation Street (7847445)

1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (48608808)

1.55 Home and Away (42131071)

2.25 High Road (30714716)

2.55-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (3266483)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9681735)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (34990)

10.30 Westcountry News (338613)

10.45 FILM: Stephen King's the Car (34118483)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (7847445)

1.25 Chain Letters (48608808)

1.55 A Country Practice (94637464)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9681735)

6.25-7.00 Central News and weather (943358)

10.40 Central Weekend (98988342)

12.40am Hotel Babylon (8048033)

1.20 The Good Sex Guide . . . Late (4722033)

2.20 The Chart Show (4940507)

3.15 Dear Nick (9457217)

4.10 Jobfinder. Focus on a musician in training and at work (4804101)

5.20 Asian Eye (8830101)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (7847445)

1.25 Home and Away (48608808)

1.55 A Country Practice (94637464)

5.10 Home and Away (9681735)

5.37-5.40 Three Minutes — Your Story (420006)

6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (34990)

10.00 News at Ten (85759)

10.30 Meridian News and weather (338613)

10.45 Only a Game (939532)

11.15 Good Advice (169025)

11.35 War of the Worlds (837551)

5.00am Freescreen (13101)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (6761532) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (16445) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (16006) **9.30 Ysgolion 12.00 Sesame Street** (43648) **1.00pm Slot Meithrin** (19532) **1.30 Blue Wilderness** (50984) **2.00 Bush Tucker Man** (30639071) **2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Doncaster** (73880716) **4.30 Waterways** (716) **5.00 Pepette** (1522648) **5.15 Anmwyl Gamera** (3556629) **5.30 Countdown** (396) **6.00 Newyddion** (141087) **6.15 Heno** (685822) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (755993) **7.25 4D** (254396) **8.00 Dei a Tom** (7071) **8.30 News** (9006) **9.00 Hidden Kingdoms** (8087) **10.00 Brookside** (24071) **10.30 Mark Thomas Comedy** (148919) **11.05 The Girlie Show** (940464) **11.55 TFI Friday** (830648) **12.55am Beavis and Butt-Head** (1155323) **1.25am Jubilee** (669323)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (r) (s) (6761532)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (16445)

9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (16006)

9.30 Schools: The Mix (9972342) **9.45** Stop Look Listen (9073025) **10.00** Fourways Farm (7787342) **10.10** Eurokids (8255223) **10.25** Technology Programme (4956416) **10.40** Off Limits (9907464) **11.05** The Mix (6787280) **11.20** Stage One (6775445) **11.35** Schools at Work (4351716) **11.40** How We Used to Live (4354445) **12.00** Fruity Stories (23342)

12.30pm Sesame Street (48396)

1.30 Camberwick Green followed by **The Herbs** (r) (50984)

2.00 That Goes Double (1937) (30639071)

2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Doncaster. Derek Thompson introduces the **2.35** Cystic Fibrosis Maiden Stakes **3.05** Cystic Fibrosis Research Cup H'Cap Stakes **3.40** William Hill Spring Mile H'Cap **4.10** Holroyd Construction Group H'Cap Stakes (s) (73880716)

4.30 Countdown (Teletext) (s) (716)

5.00 Cutting Edge: The Mystery of the Pescado (Teletext) (s) (3822)

6.00 T.F.I. Friday (aka Thank Four It's Friday) (s) (32532)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (998613)

7.55 Book Choice William Boyd reviews Peter Godwin's *Mukiwa* (Teletext) (s) (311464)

8.00 Fruity Stories. Can nuts and exotic fruits be grown here? (Teletext) (s) (7071)

8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (9006)

9.00 Cybill: The Big Sleepover. Glossy but sometimes astringently accurate American comedy with Cybill Shepherd (Teletext) (s) (6236)

Father Ted and friends (9.30pm)

9.30 Father Ted: Tentacles of Doom. Surreal comedy about three Irish priests on an offshore island (Teletext) (s) (44377)

10.00 Roseanne: The Thrilla near the Vanilla Extract. Jackie and Roseanne get jobs in a supermarket handing out food samples (Teletext) (s) (24071)

10.30 The Mark Thomas Comedy Product. A mixture of stand-up comedy and satirical stunts (s) (148919)

11.05 The Girlie Show (s) (940464)

11.55 TFI Friday (r) (s) (830648)

12.55am Beavis and Butt-Head. Animated music video reviews (s) (1155323)

1.25 FILM: Jubilee (1978). Derek Jarman's punk rock anti-celebration of the Queen's Jubilee uses the ingenious device of transporting Queen Elizabeth I to the 20th century where she is appalled by modern urban life. Starring Toyah Wilcox, Ian Charleson and Richard O'Brien (669323). Ends at **3.20**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg and Soldiers (44261) **8.30** Press Your Luck (5975938) **8.50** Love Connection (4010025) **9.20** Court TV (6283087) **9.50** The Oprah Winfrey Show (1730396) **10.40** Jeopardy! (6087006) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (2822377) **12.00** Beechy (96754) **1.00pm** Hotel (72174) **2.00** Geraldo (33648) **3.00** Court TV (2358) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5710984) **4.15** Undun (1765377) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (6938) **6.00** The Simpsons: More animated fun with Bart and the family (6261) **6.30** Jeopardy! (4613) **7.00** LAPD (7667) **7.30** M*A*S*H (6025) **8.00** Just Kidding (3087) **8.30** Coppers (5822) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (22193) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (25280) **11.00** Melrose Place (58445) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (5341025) **12.45am** The Untouchables (4362168) **1.30** Daddy Dearest (87897) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (1023385)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (8649358) **9.30** Century (56209) **10.30** ABC Nightline (63938) **11.00** World News and Business (500342) **1.30pm** CBS News (22483) **2.30** Parliament (10377) **3.30** The Lords (5919) (96025) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (28396) **7.30** Sportsline (16735) **8.30** Entertainment (3464) **11.30** CBS News (93025) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (90859) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (89014) **2.30** Worldwide Report (41439) **3.30** The Lords (13656) **4.30** CBS News (28491) **5.30** ABC World000071(25014)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Gigi (1958) (30532) **8.00 Marlowe (1900002444700)** **10.00 Quest for Justice (1993)** (68735) **12.00 Vital Signs (1990)** (30551) **2.00pm Fatso (1980)** (16533) **4.00 The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come (1961)** (8342) **6.00 Quest for Justice (1993)** (36396) **8.00 Little Buddha (1993)** (35613) **10.00 Natural Causes (1994)** (175209) **11.35 Shootfighter (1993)** (924822) **1.15am Lake Consequence (1993)** (856014) **2.45 Wheels of Terror (1987)** (190659) **4.30 Fatso (1980)**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00am A Day's Pleasure (1919) (8860) **4.30 Son of Kong (1933)** (46483) **6.00 The Three Faces of Eve (1957)** (49622984) **7.35 Raid on Entebbe (1976)** (31891209) **10.00 Conan the Barbarian (1982)** (82357006) **12.15pm The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas (1982)** (585588) **2.10-3.50 The Seventh Seal (1956)** (210062)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Captain January (1936) (38174) **8.00 The Courage of Rin Tin Tin (1962)** (42342) **10.00 Young People (1940)** (86377) **12.00 The Big Game (1995)** (38193) **2.00pm Baby, Take a Bow (1934)** (14174) **4.00 The Courage of Rin Tin Tin (1962)** (6984) **6.00 On the Buses (1971)** (82735) **7.30 UK Top Ten ()** (9735) **8.00 Staggered (1994)** (39483) **10.00 Rising Sun (1993)** (20492358) **12.10am A Business Affair (1993)** (575236) **1.55 Terror in the Night (1993)** (518385) **3.30 L'enfer (1994)** (872762) **5.10 Puss in Boots (1988)** (3338304)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (70165377) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (60110551) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (53734280) **7.30** Ducktales (53720087) **8.00** Chip 'n Dale Rescue Rangers (91672919) **8.30** The Adventures in Wonderland (91664990) **9.00** Disney (70174025) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (60101803) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (91694754) **11.00** Muppet Babies (54894087) **11.30** Pooh Corner (54895716) **12.00** Quack Attack (91675006) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (24444990) **1.00** Wonderland (53733551) **1.30** FILM: Windrunner (11073629) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (88830667) **4.00** Quack Attack (88819174) **4.30** Ducktales (88815358) **5.00** Cyberstar (61212532) **5.30** Stick with Me, Kid (83027613) **7.30** Hollywood Lives (88816087) **8.00** FILM: White Wolves II — Legend of the Wild (63260071) **9.30-10.00** Making of Toy Story (24464754)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Dancing (95754) **8.30** Figure Skating (598087) **11.00** Football (92735) **1.00** Snowboarding (11938) **1.30pm** Basketball (62025) **2.30** Figure Skating (98327377) **4.55** News (1069483) **5.00** Aerobics (4433629) **5.55** News (699174) **6.00** Live Tennis (65822) **8.00** Figure Skating (20457006) **10.20** News (641483) **10.30** Aerobics (98193) **11.30-12.30am** Body Building (33667)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (14071) **7.30** Racing News (20826) **8.00** Wrestling (18261) **9.00** Aerobics (25613) **9.30** Tight Lines (93483) **10.30** Rugby Club (69984) **11.30** Gillette World Sport Special (48613) **12.00** Aerobics Oz Style (18377) **12.30pm** Ringside Boxing (40716) **2.30** Pool (617071) **5.00** World Wrestling Federation Raw (2754) **6.00** Sports Centre (53938) **7.00** Schoolboy Football — Live. Northern Ireland v Scotland (50039990) **8.55** Sports Centre (263174) **9.00** Super League Preview (31377) **10.30** Sports Centre (94975) **11.30** Schoolboy Football (35071) **12.30am** Trans World Sport (60743) **1.30-3.00** Super League Preview (38304)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Trans World Sport (3295984) **8.00** Ford Scorpio US PGA Golf — Live (3368648) **10.00** Skif Sailing (2360919) **10.30** Ice Warriors (2996209) **12.00** Inside the PGA Senior Tour (5798033) **12.30-1.00am** Skif Sailing (5145781)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living World **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** General Christian Entertainment **6.15** Colin Dye/Wake Up Europe **6.45-7.00** Music

SKY SOAP

7.00pm Guiding Light (5910532) **7.55** As the World Turns (6816464) **8.50** Peyton Place (6093613) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (7228532) **10.10-11.00** Another World (6961025)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (4256006) **11.30** American Vacation (4604990) **12.30pm** Bruce Eats America (9712006) **1.00** Getaway (1851087) **1.30** Great Escapes (9711377) **2.00** E Report (4249445) **2.30** Cruising the Globe (6195880) **3.00** Globetrotter (4251280) **3.30** Around the World in 30 Minutes (7919342) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop (46834280)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00 Weapons at War (4247358) **5.00** Mysteries of the Bible (4242532) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Martin Luther King (9720025)

Miles, Howard and Mitchum in *Ryan's Daughter* (TNT, 9.00pm)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Swamp Thing (3134385) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (2061304) **2.00** FILM: An American Werewolf in London (4800975) **3.40-4.00** Sci-Fi Buzz (32168014)

TLC

8.00am The Joy of Painting (7146629) **8.30** Gardeners' Diary (2592071) **10.00** Two's Country (3799193) **10.30** Our House (7062613) **11.00** Room Service (2792358) **11.30** Running Repairs (2793087) **12.00** Julia Child (7159193) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (2676087) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (9208218) **1.30** Furniture to Go (2675358) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (4595803) **2.30** Stars and Gardens (6897754) **3.00** Two's Country (4504938) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (6795071)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (6058795) **7.30** Neighbours (7503880) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (7158464) **8.30** EastEnders (7157735) **9.00** The Bill (7148087) **9.30** The Sullivans (2674629) **10.00** Bergerac (1103844) **11.00** Bullseye (2794716) **11.30** Odd One Out (2795445) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (7151551) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2878445) **1.00** EastEnders (7408236) **1.30** Sykes (1922938) **2.10** The Liver Birds (1623716) **2.50** Terry and June (7185342) **3.30** The Bill (6878629) **4.00** Casualty (16891754) **5.05** Every Second Counts (9147919) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo (1320071) **6.25** EastEnders (6254984) **7.00** Top of the Pops (8873421) **8.00** Bullseye (4507025) **8.30** To the Manor Born (4586532) **9.00** Lytton's Diary (9989754) **10.00** The Bill (1486648) **10.35** KYTV (6362174) **11.15** FILM: A Cry in the Dark (50038025) **1.25am** Carrott Confidential (6239976) **2.05-3.00** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Amazing Live Sea Monkeys (72342) **6.30** Pugwall's Summer (63174) **7.00** Ready or Not (95261) **7.30** California Dreams (14396) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (60754) **8.30** Degrassi Junior High (69025) **9.00** Eek the Cat (50377) **9.30** Garfield and Friends (96667) **10.00** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (87754) **10.30** Where's Wally? (49261) **11.00** Oscar's Orchestra (81342) **11.30** Dinobabies (82071) **12.00** Barney and Friends (67613) **12.30pm** Tiny TCC (87358) **1.30** Sesame Street (88087) **2.30** Jim Henson's Animal Show (9174) **3.00** Oscar's Orchestra (2532) **3.30** The New Pink Panther Show (1919) **4.00** California Dreams (3754) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (9938)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Henry's Cat (4485629) **6.15** Blue (975209) **6.45** Toucan Tex (8754648) **7.00** Batfink (9480349) **7.05** Grimmy (4794716) **7.45** Rugrats and Doug (963464) **8.15** Aaaah! Real Monsters (4065342) **8.30** Rocko's Modern Life (98713) **9.00** Alvin and the Chipmunks (29483) **9.30** Pee-Wee 's Playhouse (32445) **10.00** Banana Sandwich (93532) **11.00** Children's BBC (13396) **12.00** Magic School Bus (16919) **12.30pm** Grimmy (36261) **1.00** Global Guts (11984) **1.30** Visionaries (35532) **2.00** Children's BBC (79464) **3.00** Wild Side Show (6716) **3.30** Mighty Max (8803) **4.00** Fish and Chips and Jo Raz (7938) **4.30** Rugrats/Doug (6822) **5.00** Sister Sister (1261) **5.30** Odyssey III (7174) **6.00** Ren & Stimpy (4087) **6.30** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (8687)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (6888006) **4.30** Charlie Bravo (6877990) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (4509483) **5.30** Terra X (6795342) **6.00** Voyager (6888483) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (6568764) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (6885919) **8.00** Jurassica 2 (9987532) **9.00** Wings (9887396) **10.00** Classic Wheels (9980483) **11.00** Shipwreck! (2717667) **11.30-12.00** Shipwreck! (3795377)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Blood of Fu Manchu (3705483) **2.00pm** Saint (3734648) **3.00** Danger Man (2791629) **4.00** FILM: Castle of Fu Manchu (4595280) **6.00** Danger Man (6892209) **6.30** The Gossip Show (3619498) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6872445) **8.00** The Saint (9961358) **9.00** UFO (9974822) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Stryker (2610700)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Benson (1025) **7.30** Family Ties (7551) **8.00** Entertainment (7445) **8.30** Wings (9280) **9.00** Soap (21990) **9.30** Laverne & Shirley (56025) **10.00** Entertainment (17648) **10.30** Home Court (26396) **11.00** Pursuit of Happiness (33735) **11.30** Bob (74919) **12.00** American Dreamer (79859) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (56410) **1.00** Wings (81149) **1.30** Soap (21255) **2.00** Laverne & Shirley (25168) **2.30** Entertainment (93025) **3.00** Home Court (61385) **3.30-4.00** Pursuit of Happiness

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (9371735) **7.00** Kilroy (1873193) **8.00** Esther (8261667) **8.30** Gardeners' World (8260938) **9.00** Masterchef 92 (9720174) **9.35** Kate & Allie (5791648) **10.05** Jerry Springer (6324648) **11.00** Young and Restless (8908377) **11.55** Food and Drink (6784434) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (7679938) **1.25** Crosswits (7078919) **2.00** Agony Hour (5398174) **3.00** Live at Three (4722919) **4.00** Infatuation UK (4022984) **4.30** Crosswits (4815731) **5.05** Lingo (93138174) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4115648) **6.00** Bewitched (4105261) **6.30** On the Bed with Paula (6747551) **7.05** Reluctant Cook (9225803) **7.40** Joker's Wild (4264193) **8.05** Young and Restless (1439629) **9.00** FILM: A Cry in the Night (61064483) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (1467396) **11.00-12.00** Erogenous Zone (5615323)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Escape from Jupiter (4377) **5.30** Night Hood (978667) **5.55** Batman (511648) **6.30** Catchphrase (4483) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (1613) **7.30** Jake and the Kid (78957) **8.30** Only When I Laugh (2396) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Murder Being Once Done (67357) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (17844) **11.00** Sirens (11209) **12.00** Jake and the Kid (35396) **1.00am** Batman (10675) **1.30** GP (34743) **2.00** The Black Stallion (38656) **2.30** African Skies (40491) **3.00** GP (30439) **3.30** The Black Stallion (31743) **4.00** African Skies (52236) **4.30-5.00** Escape from Jupiter (31168)

MTV

7.30am The Pulse (16754) **8.00** Morning Mix (191358) **11.00** Dance Floor Chart (92174) **12.00** Greatest Hits (88648) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (77377) **3.00** Video Juke Box (68445) **4.00** Hanging Out (5006) **6.00** Dial MTV (2261) **6.30** MTV News (2223) **7.00** Dance Floor Chart (67321) **8.00** Evening Mix (43342) **9.30** Amour (30241) **10.30** Singled Out (59648) **11.00** Party Zone (69006) **1.00am** Videos (6225658)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (1850358) **9.00** Cafe VH-1 (1866782) **12.00** Heart and Soul (9620071) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (9719919) **2.00** Ten of the Best: Paula Hamilton (8713735) **3.00** Into the Music (7342377) **6.00** Happy Hour (9722483) **7.00** VH-1 to You (3297342) **8.00** Beatclub '80s (4261667) **8.30** Planet Rock Profiles: Wet Wet Wet (4240174) **9.00** Ten of the Best: Jonathan Coleman (3399754) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (3296613) **11.00** Around and Around (1869822) **12.00** The Nightfly Rocks (8573236) **2.00am** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **6am to 7pm on satellite, 24-hours on cable** including **5.00pm** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran (52535358) **7.30** Zee Presents (16796342) **9.00** Shri Krishna (84112551) **9.30** Face to Face (33831984) **10.00** Banegi Apni Baat (38721254) **10.30** Urdu Serial: Ashat (27791483) **11.30** Tamil FILM: Andha Oru Nimidam (96981483) **2.30** Buniyaad (70385822) **3.00** Hindi Serial: Bharat Ek Khoj (56932006) **4.00** Video Junction (70376174) **4.30** Khel Time (70372358) **5.00** Zee Zone (11415209) **5.30** It's My Show (70398938) **6.00** Zabaan Sambhal Ke (70386551) **6.30** Zee & U (70377803) **7.00** BBCD (11495445) **7.30** Namaste India (70373087) **8.00** News (11404193) **8.30** Antakshari (11310700) **9.00-12.00** Hindi Movie: Alag Alag (77562209)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm Around the World (1956) (53729358) **9.00 Ryan's Daughter (1970)** (72549209) **12.35am The Court-Martial of Jackie Robinson (1990)** (73923830) **2.15-5.00 Fever Pitch (1985)** (16856507)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

BBC WORLD

News on the hour
8.05am Question Time 9.30 Q.E.D. 12.15pm Everyman 1.15 World Business Report 1.30 Newshour Asia and Pacific 2.30 Tomorrow's World 3.05 Question Time 4.30 Motorworld 5.15 World Business Report 5.30 Holiday 8.05 Question Time 9.30 Film '96 12.10am Newsnight 4.05 Correspondent 5.20 The Late Show

SWIMMING 39
HARDCASTLE BOOKS
HER RETURN TO
OLYMPIC STAGE

SPORT

GOLF 40
RIVALS LEFT TO
FRET AS SWEDE
MAKES HIS MOVE

FRIDAY MARCH 22 1996

Graveney accepts nomination

Illingworth's position under threat

By Simon Wilde

RAYMOND Illingworth said that if his position as chairman of the England cricket selectors was to be challenged, he would fight his corner hard. He had better get into training fast. David Graveney, a fellow selector and nominated by Warwickshire, had no sooner been confirmed yesterday as his opponent than he was unveiling a power-packed manifesto perfectly capable of delivering a knockout blow.

The men could hardly be more different. Illingworth is 63 and autocratic, a style that won him many honours at county and international level on the field, but which has served him less well off it. Graveney is 43 and a democrat, as his work as general secretary of the Cricketers' Association testifies. He never played for England, never won a championship in his 23 years with Somerset, Gloucestershire and Durham, and has made few enemies.

What they have in common is a passion about the game and an ability to think deeply about it. Arguably, though, Illingworth's thoughts are going out of fashion fast, which may explain why the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), understandably shocked and angry at England's results and demeanour at the World Cup, earlier this month ordered an inquiry into all aspects of the national team's management.

If Graveney wins the postal ballot among the 20 members of the TCCB, the result of which will be known on Tuesday, its inquiry may be rendered unnecessary, because he has specific and wide-ranging proposals to create an environment in which England could thrive again.

Graveney was at pains to stress that, if he replaced Illingworth, who has been chairman since 1994, he would not perform the same functions as his predecessor. He regards the chairman's role as an overseeing one — "making sure the right structure is operating properly".

This structure would involve a larger back-room staff, in line with those that Australia and South Africa successfully employ. There would be a permanent team administrator, team manager and chief coach, and other coaches as well, each with specific duties.

For these positions, Graveney has in mind men of a similar vintage to himself, with Ian Botham high on his list of candidates. "I can see an important role for him in the dressing-room and in a general coaching and motivational capacity," he said yesterday. "He inspires and he gets on well with the players." The position of team administrator would be a natural one for John Barclay, who was an able assistant to Illingworth during the World Cup and in South Africa. Several counties are understood to have wanted Barclay to stand for the chairmanship, but he declined to do so. Perhaps Graveney's plans will attract such counties to his camp.

Graveney: proposals

Others who could benefit from Graveney's appointment are David Lloyd, the Lancashire coach, and Mike Gatting, the Middlesex captain, who has long been earmarked for a national coaching role. Graveney made it clear that he would like Michael Atherton to continue as captain for some time to come, his burden eased by the expanded administrative and coaching staff.

By comparison, Illingworth's ideas, such as they are, look thin. The central one was that he should be invested with unprecedented powers, being England manager and well as chairman, but after a year that policy has been condemned as a failure.

It had been thought likely that he would forfeit the position of manager, but he may lose both — and on the same day. His future as England manager will be considered by the TCCB's executive committee on Tuesday afternoon, directly before the result of the voting for chairman is announced.

Like Graveney, Illingworth wants to surround himself with men of his own generation, but some of the selectors and coaches he has favoured have been accused, like himself, of lacking empathy with the modern professional. Illingworth's unilateral decision-making — notably his last-minute switch of wicketkeepers before the Lord's Test match against West Indies last year — also lost him friends, and arguably deprived England of one of its leading benefactors, Patrick Whittingdale, who was upset at the equivocal support offered to Atherton.

Illingworth's reputation has always rested on his results rather than his methods. His fear must be that the counties will now judge him on his record, and kick him out.

☐ Brian Lara may be summoned before the West Indies Cricket Board of Control's disciplinary committee after an altercation with Dennis Waight, the team trainer. Reports in Bridgetown yesterday suggested that Lara and Waight had been invovled in an acrimonious exchange as the team flew to London from India after the World Cup.

JOHN GILES

Royston Ffrench, right, takes a short-lived lead in the 1996 jockeys' championship as he partners Haya Ya Kefaah to victory over Outstayed Welcome in the first race of the turf Flat season at Doncaster yesterday. Racing, page 41

England's train of thought is turned to youngsters

By Russell Kempson

THREE of England's most promising young footballers have been invited to join the national squad during preparations for the international match against Bulgaria at Wembley next Wednesday.

Terry Venables, the England coach, has extended a welcome to Lee Bowyer, the Charlton Athletic midfield player, Richard Wright, the Ipswich Town goalkeeper, and Ian Moore, a striker with Tranmere Rovers. Though there is no possibility of them appearing against Bulgaria, they will play a full part in training at Bisham Abbey.

For Bowyer, 19, it completes a swift return to grace after testing positive for cannabis a year ago in a random drugs test carried out by the Football Association. "It's a brilliant opportunity for Lee," Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, said. "He's the type of lad who learns very quickly and it will be a great education for him. He won't be overawed."

Bowyer has missed only three games for Charlton this season, scoring 14 goals, and has played for the England Under-18 and Under-21 sides. Arsenal and Liverpool are among the FA Carling Premiership clubs to have closely monitored his progress.

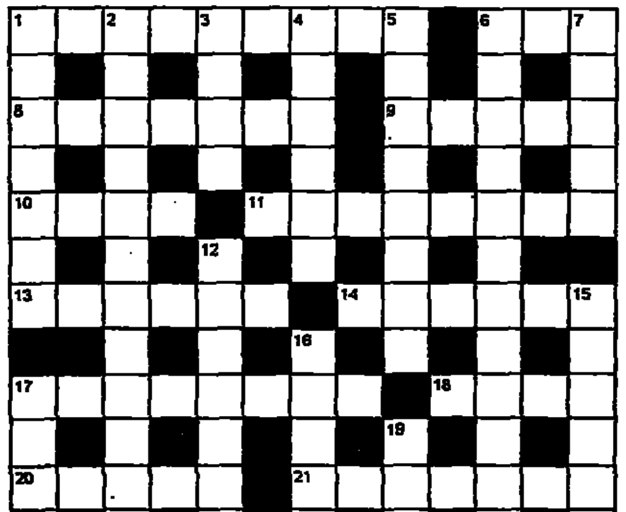
Wright, 18, the England Under-18 goalkeeper, has replaced Craig Forrest in the Ipswich first team and has made 19 appearances this season. An Ipswich spokesman said: "He couldn't believe it when he heard the news but he's a very level-headed lad and I'm sure he'll do well." Moore, 18, is the son of the coach at Prenton Park, Ronny Moore, and has scored ten goals for Tranmere this season.

"It's a sort of getting-to-know-you exercise, which is great experience for them," Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said.

☐ The Bulgaria coach, Dimitar Penev, has chosen a squad close to full strength for the match at Wembley. Only the injured defender, Tsanko Tsvetanov, is missing from a party of 18.

SQUAD: B Mikhailov, D Popov, E Kremenliev, T Ivanov, P Hubchev, G Ginchev, I Kiryakov, R Kishishev, Z Yankov, D Borimirov, I Yordanov, H Stoichkov, Y Lechkov, K Balakov, L Penev, E Kostadinov, B Guentchev, N Sirakov.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 736

ACROSS
1 End of digit; brief (sketch) (9)
6 Weep convulsively (3)
8 Achieve revenge (3,4)
9 Way (to an end); wealth (5)
10 Ex-Yugoslav dictator (4)
11 Lower-wall wood panel (8)
13 A monkey; a blood factor (6)
14 Appear; expose, humiliate (4,2)
17 Shaven yob (8)
18 Uninvitingly dull (4)
20 Planet; underworld god (5)
21 Barbary pirate (7)
22 Sussex port; cereal (3)
23 Inlaid woodwork (9)

DOWN
1 More drunk, fast (7)
2 Au courant (2-2-3-6)
3 Gaggle of girls (4)
4 Toughen (metal) by heat (6)
5 Of which Don Quixote was Man (2,6)
6 Police entry permit (6,7)
7 Surround, attack (5)
12 Proverbially fast-growing fungus (8)
15 Onset of adolescence (7)
16 Piece of crockery, may fly (6)
17 Splendid; an extra (5)
19 German wife (4)

The solution to 735 will be published Wednesday, March 27

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Flitcroft poised to join Blackburn for £3.5m

By Peter Ball and David Maddock

GARRY FLITCROFT, Manchester City's England under-21 midfield player, is set to sign for Blackburn Rovers today. The Maine Road club accepted Blackburn's offer of £3.5 million and the player had a medical yesterday after agreeing personal terms.

Blackburn have admired Flitcroft, 23, for some time. Now, with the sale of David Batty to Newcastle United, they have replaced him with a strong competitor, but a more rounded — and much younger — footballer. They may consider they have got a bargain.

City's decision to sell, however, will cause consternation among supporters in their attempt to avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership. Flitcroft was regarded as a key player in the hoped-for regeneration of the club. Significantly, City have not won any of their ten matches this season in which Flitcroft has not played.

"The offer from Blackburn came out of the blue and was obviously very difficult to resist," Alan Ball, the City manager, said. "But the financial aspect wasn't the only consideration.

"There were footballing matters we had to take into account, like the development this season of Michael Brown. In fact, we have a glut of midfield players at Maine Road at the moment, and both I and my chairman [Francis Lee] felt that we could allow Garry to move without weakening our senior squad."

Ball will discuss with Lee the possibility of using some of the fee to sign new players, although he admitted it was a remote prospect. With Guiseppe Mazzarelli, the Switzerland Under-21 player, joining City two weeks ago, and Mikhail Kavelashvila, the Georgia striker, waiting for a work permit, City are becoming more cosmopolitan by the month.

Flitcroft expressed mixed feelings about the move yesterday. "It will be a massive wrench to leave Maine Road," Flitcroft said. "I have been here since I was 12 and I have never considered leaving for one moment. I didn't know anything about it until I was told on Wednesday night that City had accepted their offer. It was a major shock to discover that City were prepared to sell me, but I suppose you have to be realistic and accept that these things happen in football.

Solace for Leeds 39

"Obviously, it was an offer City felt they could not afford to turn down, and at least I have got the consolation of knowing that I am joining a very ambitious club. In many ways, this is a very sad day for me, but I have got a new challenge to think about with Blackburn."

Flitcroft: challenge

His first challenge may be to get into the team, with Tim Sherwood established in central midfield and Lars Bohinen recovering from injury. Blackburn now look as well equipped in that area as any of the leading teams, and Flitcroft arrives in time to help their pursuit of a Uefa Cup place.

Flitcroft will receive a £500,000 signing-on fee, wages of £10,000 a week and a loyalty bonus worth around £250,000 from his former club.

John Burridge, the 44-year-old goalkeeper, yesterday agreed to add Bolton Wanderers to his collection of league clubs, bringing his total to 21. Burridge made his professional debut with Workington in the 1968-69 season. He has agreed a short-term contract to coach at Burnden Park, but Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, will also register his new arrival as a player.

Robert Chase's controversial ten-year reign as chairman of Norwich City could reach a conclusion by the end of the week. At a shareholders' meeting yesterday, Chase said that he had accepted an offer from an unidentified consortium for his 34 per cent holding in the club. The deal is subject to an independent audit by the prospective purchasers.

Chase has infuriated Norwich supporters in recent seasons by his policy of selling good players. Only last week, after he had announced that the club was £4.5 million in debt, Jon Newsome and Ashley Ward were sold for a combined fee of £2.6 million.

Yeboah to coach in Ghana on retirement

By Peter Ball

TONY YEBOAH, the Leeds United forward, announced yesterday that he will retire and return to Ghana when his three-year contract expires in the summer of 1998.

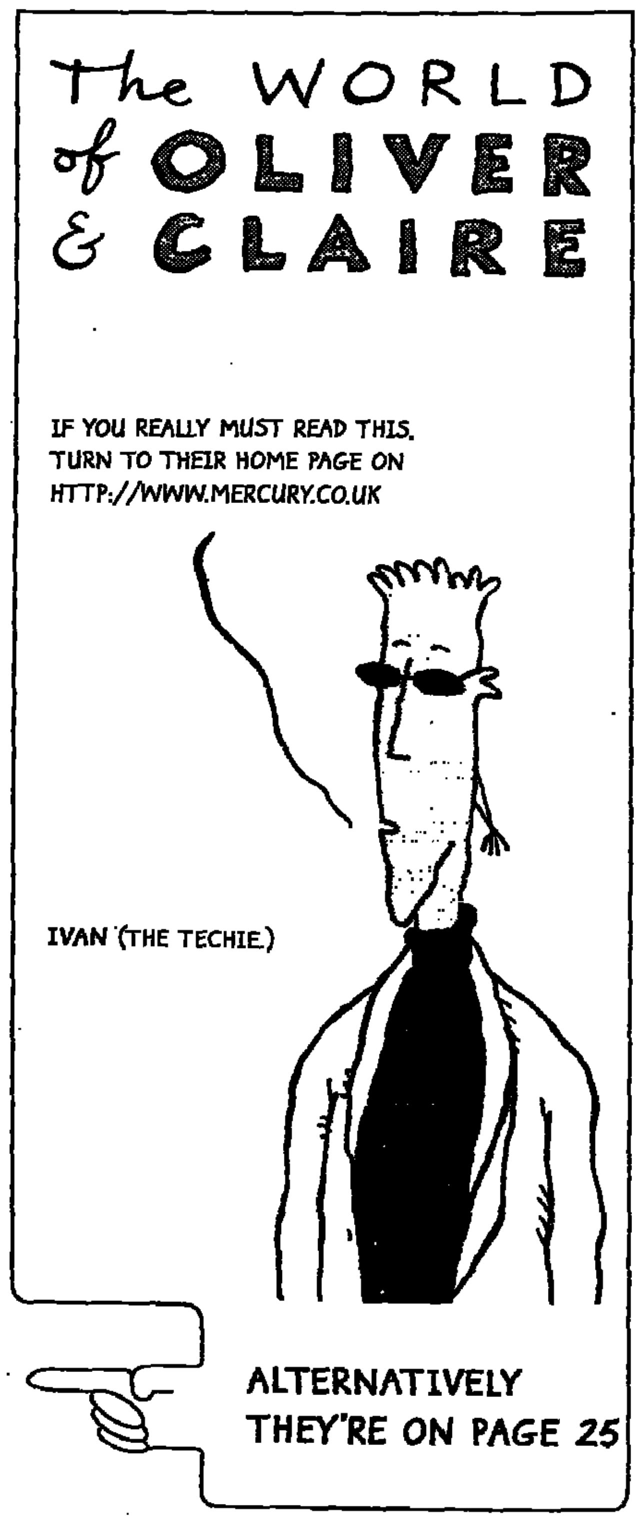
"I will be 32 by then, and I think that is time to stop playing football," Yeboah said yesterday as Leeds prepared for their Coca-Cola Cup Final against Aston Villa on Sunday. "I am going back to Okwaku United, my former club, to coach the six- to ten-year-olds. They need help to become good players. And I want my children to grow up in Ghana."

Yeboah, who cost Leeds £3.5 million when they signed him from Eintracht Frankfurt last year, has scored 32 goals in 54 starts for Leeds, a staggering rate in an inconsistent team, and one in which he has often been left to play on his own up front, rather than with a partner, as he prefers.

Before he leaves he will fulfil one ambition by playing at Wembley, and hopes to help Leeds to reach Europe and, next season, to challenge for the championship. "I know how important this game is; it is our last hope of qualifuing for Europe.

"I am used to playing in Europe, and it will be very disappointing if we don't qualify. I would hope next season we will challenge for the league, but to do that we need one or two new players."

☐ Anders Limpar, the Swedish winger, is to stay with Everton, whose manager, Joe Royle, told him that he will not be one of the players to go in the end-of-season clear-out.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IVAN (THE TECHIE)

ALTERNATIVELY
THEY'RE ON PAGE 25